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ART. I. — *A Memoir of Sebastian Cabot; with a Review of the History of Maritime Discovery. Illustrated by Documents from the Rolls, now first published.* Philadelphia. Carey & Lea. 1831. 8vo. pp. 327.

THE writer of this volume discovers all the diligence and accuracy of a German student. It is an attempt, in an age of much loose writing in matters pertaining to history, to remove the mass of error that has been gradually accumulating around facts and events of a remote period, that the truth may shine forth with its original lustre.

Readers in general have but little opportunity or inclination to investigate any point of history, by tracing back a disputed question, through various authors, to its source. They are apt to rest satisfied with the first relation they read; and the impression thus made, which may be historically false, is not easily effaced. Writers themselves who aim to instruct others are not sufficiently careful, but often copy from preceding authors statements and conclusions that are full of error. The general historian gives them his sanction, and they find their way into the compends and abridgments that are the *pabulum* of the great body of readers, till in process of time they are uttered with the voice and authority of truth.

The critical inquirer is often astonished to find how much of fiction or of incorrect relation is involved in what passes current for genuine history. Thus, mistakes in names of persons and places, of dates and events, are handed down from generation to generation; and it is only by an examination, often long and laborious, of various successive writers on the subject, and by comparing one with another, together with

such collateral aids as may be obtained, that the correction can be made.

In the work before us the author has endeavoured to vindicate the fame of Sebastian Cabot, by pointing out and correcting those passages in preceding histories that detract in any measure from his merit as a man of science and a discoverer. And the attempt is highly praiseworthy, as belonging to the truth of history, and especially the history of our own country and continent. If then the author has been tolerably successful, he deserves our thanks; and if his proofs amount even to demonstration, as it appears to us they do in most instances, he has the highest claim to regard.

It would carry us far beyond our limits to give a very particular account of this work, and serve up the evidence on which the author relies to support his various positions. We must therefore advise the zealous student of history to examine the book for himself; while we shall strive to perform our duty to our readers by mentioning some of the principal points in which the author takes to task his numerous predecessors in the field, with but little ceremony.

The first voyage of Columbus produced a powerful sensation throughout the west of Europe. Numerous adventurers rushed forward to follow in the path which he, like a prophet of old, had marked out to the bold spirit of enterprise. To Columbus, whose name we hold in deep veneration, belongs all the glory, in an age of ignorance and false philosophy, of the mighty conception of the existence of land in the western hemisphere; a conception not proceeding from an idle exercise of the imagination, but from a long and severe process of reasoning. The honor of the first design and the first execution is exclusively his; he is chief among the benefactors of mankind. Nor does it detract from his merit, that others, who were illuminated by the rays of light emitted from his mind, pushed their discoveries farther. Whatever praise is due to them, it is inferior to his.

At the same period there were many Venetians residing in London, principally engaged in commerce. Among these was John Cabot, with his three sons, Lewis, Sebastian, and Sanctius. It was supposed that a shorter route to India might be found by sailing northwest as far as Cathay, the northern part of China, and thence taking a southerly direction. Accordingly a patent was granted by Henry the Sev-

enth to Cabot and his sons, dated March 5, 1496, authorizing them to undertake an expedition. In this expedition the father probably embarked with his son Sebastian, who was then a very young man. Modern historians have bestowed all the praise upon the father. They have represented him as "a man perfectly skilled in all the sciences requisite to form an accomplished mariner." This praise is bestowed on the authority of Hakluyt, from whose work, as cited by our author, we make the following extract :

"A note of *Sebastian Cabot's* first discoverie of part of the Indies taken out of the latter part of Robert Fabian's Chronicle, not hitherto printed, which is in the custodie of M. John Stow, a diligent preserver of antiquities.

"In the 13 yeere of K. Henry the 7 (by means of one *John Cabot, a Venetian*, which made himself *very expert and cunning in knowledge of the circuit of the world, and islands of the same, as by a sea card and other demonstrations reasonable he shewed*), the king caused to man and victuall a ship at Bristow to search for an island which he said he knew well was rich and replenished with great commodities." (Hakluyt, vol. iii. p. 9.)

In the above extract, it will be remarked, all the praise is given to the father, as possessed of much scientific knowledge. But our author shows that it belongs to Sebastian, and traces very satisfactorily the gross error of Hakluyt, who it seems did not see "*Fabian's Chronicle*," but derived his information from Stow, a man in a humble walk of life, but very diligent, faithful, and accurate, as an antiquary. To show the progress of Hakluyt's error, we will cite a few passages from our author, who devotes a number of pages to the examination.

"Fortunately we are not left to mere conjecture. In 1605, appeared Stow's own '*Annals*.' The simplicity and good faith of this writer are so well known, as well as his intense reverence for whatever bore the stamp of antiquity, that we have no fear of his having committed what in his eyes would have been sacrilege by changing one syllable of the original. Let it be remembered then that Hakluyt relies exclusively on what he obtained from Stow; and in reading the following passage from the '*Annals*,' we find what doubtless passed into Hakluyt before it was subjected to his perilous correction. It occurs at page 804 of the edition of 1605, and at page 483 of

that of 1631. 'This year one *Sebastian Gaboto*, a *Genoa's sonne borne in Bristol*, professing himself to be expert in the knowledge of the circuit of the world and islands of the same, as by his charts and other reasonable demonstrations he shewed, caused the king to man and victual a ship,' &c. . . . Thus we have the best evidence that the contemporary writer, whoever he may have been, made not the slightest allusion to the father. Bacon, Speed, Thuanus, &c., all furnish the same statement.

"The very phrase, 'a Genoa's son,' employed to designate Sebastian Cabot, may be considered as the not unnatural mistake of a contemporary, referring as it does to the country of Columbus, with whose fame all Europe was ringing from side to side." pp. 43, 44.

The author then goes on to "trace the progress of Hakluyt's perversion." In 1582, Hakluyt published an early work, entitled "*Divers Voyages to America*," and in this work he says, he derives his information from *Mr. John Stow, Citizen*; but he changes the words, a *Genoa's son* into a *Venetian*. Afterwards, when he hears of the second patent to John Cabot, in 1498, "he makes a further alteration of what he had received from Stow. Instead of a *Venetian*, as in 1582, when he had the memorandum first before him, it becomes *one John Cabot, a Venetian*, thus effecting at the two stages of alteration, a complete change of what he had received; and yet for the statement as there finally made, Fabian and Stow continue to be cited."

Our readers will also observe in the extract from Hakluyt, that he retains the original title of the passage, "A note of *Sebastian Cabot's* first discoverie," &c., which our author supposes was the explanatory memorandum at the head of Stow's communication. Its incongruity with the whole passage, where *Sebastian* is not once mentioned, is manifest, and sufficiently proves the carelessness of Hakluyt in this respect.

Hakluyt also mentions in a note to this voyage, that three savages were brought from the newly discovered country, *mentioned by the foresaid Robert Fabian*. But our author renders it much more probable that this was in the year 1502. Indeed, Hakluyt himself in his first work, to which we have alluded, places this occurrence under the year 1502, which he alters in his larger work to 1498. The matter, however, is of but little consequence, any further than to

place us on our guard against relying with too much confidence on his statements.

To Sebastian Cabot, then, belongs the commendation of being skilled in maritime science. But our author, with but little show of reason or probability, goes so far as to doubt whether John Cabot accompanied the expedition. The evidence on the other side is satisfactory, although it may be true that he only embarked in the project as a mercantile enterprise; for "we have not a tittle of evidence as to his character or past pursuits, except that he came to London to *follow the trade of merchandise*. All that is said about his knowledge of the sphere — his perfect acquaintance with the sciences, &c., is merely an amplification of the remarks of Fabian as to Sebastian Cabot, the great object of whose project was to verify his simple but bold proposition that by pushing to the north, a shorter route might be opened to the treasures of Cataya."

Other important questions are discussed by our author, relating to the most northerly latitude of Sebastian Cabot's first voyages, and to his claim to the honor of first discovering the continent. For if he touched upon the coast of Labrador, June 24, 1497, the day he first came in sight of land, he is entitled to the glory of prior discovery, as Columbus did not reach the continent, till August 1, 1498.

How far north then did Cabot sail on the first voyage? There is much confusion in Hakluyt on this point, and our author criticizes him with no measured severity. Most writers since his time, and relying on his authority, have assigned the *fifty-sixth* or *fifty-eighth degree* as the highest latitude reached by Cabot after discovering land. But it is abundantly shown in the "Memoir," that he sailed north and west as high as $67\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north latitude. This appears from Cabot's own letter to Ramusio, contained in that writer's "Collection of Voyages." It appears also from divers other authorities cited in the "Memoir," a few of which we will lay before our readers.

"Sebastianus Gabottus, sumptibus Regis Angliæ, Henrici VII, per septentrionalem plagam ad Cataium penetrare voluit. Ille primus Cuspidem Baccalaos detexit (quam hodie Britones et Nortmanni nautæ la coste des Molues, hoc est, Asselorum marinorum oram appellant) atque etiam ulterius *usque ad 67*

gradum versus polum arcticum.' (De Bry, Grands Voyages, iv. p. 69.)

"*Belle-forest*, in his *Cosmographie Universelle*, A. D. 1576, (tom. ii. p. 2175), makes the same statement.

"In the treatise of Chauveton, '*Du Nouveau Monde*,' published at Geneva, in 1579, he says, (p. 141) '*Sebastian Gabotto entreprit aux despens de Henry VII., Rex d'Angleterre, de chercher, quelque passage pour aller en Catay par la Tramontaine. Cestuy la descouvrit la pointe de Baccalaos, (que les mariniens de Bretagne et de Normandie appellent La Coste des Molues) et plus haut jusqu'a soixante sept degrez du Pole.*'" pp. 26, 27.

Churchyard, in 1578, says,

"'I find that Gabotta was the first, in King Henry VII.'s days, that discovered this frozen land or seas from *sixty-seven towards the North*, and from thence towards the South, along the coast of America to thirty-six degrees and a half,' &c." p. 27.

The authority of Herrera is also cited to the same effect, as well as that of Lord Bacon, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and others; and we may add that of our own learned writers, Belknap and Holmes. The author then proceeds to show that Cabot penetrated Hudson's Bay.

It is generally thought that Cabot was prevented from proceeding farther by the mutiny of his crew, and that on returning, he sailed along the Atlantic coast to the thirty-sixth degree of North latitude, when he was obliged to return to England on the failure of provisions. Our author, however, questions this at some length, and assigns it to a subsequent voyage. One circumstance that he mentions in a note (p. 79), viz. an allowance by the king, August 10, 1497, "*To hym that found the New Isle £ 10,*" tends to strengthen the doubt, especially if it be established, that on this first voyage Cabot reached the latitude of $67\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. But whether it was on this or a subsequent voyage, does not touch the question of prior discovery. For it is admitted on all sides, that he reached on the first voyage the latitude of 56° , at least; and this embraces a large part of the territory of Labrador.

As we have before remarked, a principal question discussed in the "*Memoir*" relates to land first discovered by Cabot. We believe it has been generally supposed to be Newfoundland. But our author is of a different opinion, and examines the

point elaborately, and arrives at the conclusion that it was the coast of Labrador on our northern continent that Cabot first reached in the good ship Matthew of Bristol. If this be so, Sebastian Cabot preceded both Columbus and Americus Vesputius in reaching the Main.

Sebastian Cabot, on his return from his first voyage, published a map or card of his discovery. An Extract from this is referred to by Hakluyt and Purchas, as "hung up in the privy gallery at Whitehall;" which renders it probable that they never saw the original. This Extract was probably executed after Sebastian's death. A part of it is as follows.

"' Anno Domini 1497, Joannes Cabotus Venetus, et Sebastianus illius filius eam terram fecerunt perviam, quam nullus prius adire ausus fuit, die 24 Junii, circiter horam quintam bene manè. Hanc autem appellavit Terram primum visam, credo quod ex mari in eam partem primum oculos iniecerat. Namque ex adverso sita est insula, eam appellavit insulam Divi Joannis, hac opinor ratione, quod aperta fuit eo qui dies est sacer Divo Joanni Baptistæ.'" pp. 51, 52.

In the remainder there is a general description of the natives, and also of the soil, animals, &c. Hakluyt in rendering the Extract into English has been in several instances too free in his translation. Thus in the Extract it is said that the land first seen was absolutely sterile, "*tellus sterilis est.*" In the translation, "the soil is barren *in some places.*" In the Extract, "*neque ullos fructus affert.*" In the translation, "and yieldeth *little* fruit." This applies, as our author remarks, with more force to Labrador than to Newfoundland. So also the statement in the Extract that the "*terra primum visa*" is "full of white bears, and deer larger than ours."

"Now the haunts of the white bear are on the coast of Labrador, and they do not come so far south as Newfoundland in numbers to warrant such a description. The account, too, given by Peter Martyr, of the manner in which these bears catch the fish, which is their favorite food, strikingly recalls the lively description of similar scenes by Mr. Cartwright, in his 'Journal, during a residence of nearly sixteen years on the coast of Labrador.' It is remarkable that most English writers have been rather reluctant to copy Cabot's representation on this point, supposing it inapplicable to Newfoundland, where,

though white bears may be occasionally seen, they are not 'native here and to the manner born.' " pp. 54, 55.

Another argument that our author derives from the Extract is, that the "terra primum visa" being discovered on the 24th of June, and the island the same day (St. John's day), it is not probable "that Cabot on the very day of the discovery could have penetrated so far." And the description is inapplicable, "*that island which lieth out before the land.*" It appears also that the present St. John was named by the celebrated French navigator Jaques Cartier, at a subsequent period, June 24, 1534.

"But the most important and conclusive piece of testimony is furnished by Ortelius," (a highly distinguished geographer,) "who had the map of Cabot before him, and who places an island of St. John in the latitude of 56° immediately on the coast of Labrador. This is doubtless the one so designated by Cabot." p. 55.

A passage in the second patent in favor of John Cabot, made by Henry the Seventh, February 3, 1498, tends to strengthen the supposition. This patent, which our author had the honor of discovering after a tedious search of several weeks in the Rolls Chapel, and of first publishing to the world (p. 75) is of considerable value in an historical point of view. But we must confine ourselves to the passage alluded to. The patent is granted to Cabot with liberty to take six vessels, "and them convey and lede to the *Londe and Isles* of late founde by the said John in oure name and by our commaundement," and take on board the ships all such persons as wish to "goo and passe with him in the same shippes to the *seid Londe or Isles*," without any hindrance to their passing with the said John "to the *seid Londe or Isles*." *

"Surely," says our author, "the importance of this document cannot be exaggerated. It establishes conclusively, and for ever, that the American continent was first discovered by an expedition commissioned to 'set up the banner' of England. It were idle to offer an argument to connect this recital of the 3d of February, 1498, with the discovery of the 24th of June, 1497, noted on the old map hung up at Whitehall. Will it not be deemed almost incredible that the very Document in the Records of England, which recites the great discovery, and

plainly contemplates a scheme of colonization, should, up to this moment, have been treated by her own writers as the one which first gave the permission to go forth and explore?" pp. 75, 76.

This patent, it is added, is a complete answer to foreign writers who have argued against the claim of England, on the ground that the patent, as was supposed, took no notice of discoveries alleged to have been made the year before.

The words *primum visam* in the Extract, Hakluyt translates "*Prima vista*, that is to say, *first seen*, because, as I suppose, it was that part whereof they had the first sight from sea." This Extract, as it was called, was probably made after Cabot's death, and it will be observed that the suggestion is given only as a conjecture. Nor is the name *Prima Vista*, or *Terra primum visa*, mentioned in any of the various conversations of Cabot. The expression, therefore, is far from being an argument in favor of Newfoundland; and furthermore the author says that "The map of the New World which accompanies the copy of Hakluyt's work in the king's library, has the following inscription on the present Labrador; 'This land was discovered by John and Sebastian Cabote for Kinge Henry VII., 1497.'"

Besides the authority thus derived, we are called to notice that the island which stands out from the land ("ex adverso sita est insula") was discovered on the 24th of June, and was therefore named St. John. This it would be fair to suppose was first discovered, and the designation *Prima Vista*, or *First Sight*, would hardly be bestowed on a point subsequently seen, even though on the same day. And we agree with the author that Cabot would not have quitted his main discovery and stood out to sea to examine a small island, or have dedicated to the Saint the inferior and later discovery.

On the whole, there is no good reason to believe that Cabot gave this name to his first discovery. The respective terms, *Newfoundland*, *Newfoundlands*, *Terra Nova*, or *New Land*, were inserted on the old maps, and were employed by the early writers to designate generally the English discoveries in the North.

We have, we believe, taken notice of the principal arguments which our author adduces in support of Sebastian Cabot's claim to prior discovery. And we are reminded, however imperfectly they may have been set forth by us, that we

must hasten to a close, after a very general account of the remainder of the "Memoir."

In 1498, Sebastian Cabot made a second voyage to the continent, and attempted to plant a colony on the coast; and it was then probably that he penetrated Hudson's Bay, and gave English names to several places he discovered. The following year our author supposes that he visited Maracaibo; but the evidence leaves it very doubtful.

For several subsequent years we have no account of Cabot, in consequence of the unfortunate disappearance of his *maps and discourses*, some time after his death. These were ready for publication; but it is supposed by our author they were fraudulently concealed or destroyed to answer the views of Philip of Spain, Queen Mary's husband.

In 1512, we find him invited by Ferdinand of Spain to reside in that country; where he at first held the office of Captain in the royal service, and was afterwards a member of the Council of the Indies, and made a general revision of maps and charts under direction of the king. On the death of Ferdinand he returned to England, and was immediately employed again in search of a north-west passage to India. A minute account of the various discrepancies in relation to this voyage is given in the "Memoir"; and the result at which the author arrives is, that Cabot was frustrated in his attempt by the conduct of the master and mariners, — by which means Spain succeeded in first reaching Peru.

The estimation in which Cabot was held, was deservedly great. In 1518, soon after returning from the voyage just mentioned, he was appointed by the Emperor Charles the Fifth, Pilot-Major of Spain, and again took up his residence in that country. For several years he exercised this office doubtless to the acceptance of the Emperor. But circumstances again called him to more active duty. The discovery by Magellan of the Strait of that name immediately turned the attention of adventurers and navigators to a route to India in that direction; and a company was formed in Spain, and a fleet was equipped, of which Cabot was appointed Captain General by permission of the Emperor. The object of the company was to explore the coast of South America, particularly the western side, passing through the Straits of Magellan, and afterwards to proceed to the Moluccas with which the Portuguese carried on a very lucrative commerce.

Several causes, direct and indirect, intervened, which finally prevented the expedition from reaching the Moluccas. After the company was formed, and before the ships sailed, a treaty was made between Spain and Portugal, and it was rumored at the time that one of its articles stipulated an abandonment of the Moluccas on the part of Spain. Cabot sailed in April, 1526. On reaching the American continent some of the leaders in the other vessels, jealous of the fame and authority of Cabot, spread disaffection among the men, which at last burst out in a mutiny. The commander, with a promptness and energy for which he was remarkable, seized three of the leaders, men of rank and family in Spain, placed them in a boat, and ordered them to be put on shore. These men afterwards reached Spain full of bitter complaints against Cabot; but the Emperor justified his conduct. He soon after reached the La Plata and proceeded up the river, according to Eden's account, three hundred and fifty leagues. This course our author supposes was in consequence of the mutiny, and of the loss of one of his ships, which induced him to delay proceeding round Cape Horn till he should hear from Spain. From the La Plata he proceeded up the river Puraná, and afterwards entered the Paraguay. While here, Diego Garcia, a Portuguese, entered the river. He had sailed from Spain a few months after Cabot. While in the neighbourhood of Cabot, he brought on by the bad conduct of some of the persons connected with the expedition a general attack by the natives upon the Spaniards, by which many lives were lost, and an inveterate hatred ensued between the parties.

While at the La Plata and in the vicinity, Cabot made numerous researches into the country, and sent to the Emperor a detailed report, which our author supposes to be still in existence. Another attack from the natives obliged him to take refuge on board his ships and proceed to Spain. This was in 1531. He resumed the office of Pilot-Major, and held it till 1548, when probably by reason of increasing years and affection for his native country he returned to England for the last time, and settled in Bristol. Edward the Sixth granted him a pension of two hundred marks; and afterwards made him a present of £ 200 for his agency in breaking down the *stilyard*, an odious monopoly in favor of foreign merchants, in the exporting of English cloths.

After Cabot's return to England, although advanced in years, he continued actively engaged for the public welfare. By the operation of the *stilyard* English trade and English merchants were in a sad condition. Cabot was consulted by the principal merchants and others, and he strongly recommended a voyage for the discovery of the northern part of the world. An expedition was set on foot of which Sir Hugh Willoughby was commander. The instructions for the voyage were prepared by the veteran Cabot, in 1553, when at the age of seventy-five. They are very full, and discover a reflecting, sagacious mind, and enlarged knowledge. The sad fate of Sir Hugh is well known to our readers. But another result of the expedition was the discovery of Russia with which a commercial intercourse was speedily formed, and trade forthwith revived in England. An *Association of Merchant Adventurers* was formed, and Cabot was made Governor for life, as the "chiefest setter forth" of the enterprise. After the death of king Edward, Cabot met with cold treatment from Philip and Mary, which may admit of an easy explanation, although not to their advantage. But we pass from it and quote the concluding passage of our author upon the noble subject of the "Memoir."

"The date of his death is not known, nor except presumptively, the place where it occurred. From the presence of Eden we may infer that he died in London. It is not known where his remains were deposited. The claims of England in the new world have been uniformly, and justly, rested on his discoveries. Proposals of colonization were urged, on the clearness of the title thus acquired and the shame of abandoning it. The English language would probably be spoken in no part of America, but for Sebastian Cabot. The commerce of England and her navy are admitted to have been deeply — incalculably — his debtors. Yet there is reason to fear that in his extreme age the allowance which had been solemnly granted to him for life was fraudulently broken in upon. His birthplace we have seen denied. His fame has been obscured by English writers, and every vile calumny against him eagerly adopted and circulated. All his own Maps and Discourses 'drawn and written by himself' which it was hoped might come out in print, 'because so worthy monuments should not be buried in perpetual oblivion,' have been buried in perpetual oblivion. He gave a continent to England: yet no one can point to the few feet of earth she has allowed him in return!" pp. 219, 220.

The Second Book of the work contains "A Review of the History of Maritime Discovery," with some account of the third voyage of Columbus, and voyages of Cortereal, Cortes, Gomez, Frobisher, and Hudson, with various corrections of preceding authors.

The account we have given of the "Memoir," although somewhat extended, is necessarily imperfect. For the work goes very much into detail, and the author examines a great variety of points. Were it not for the value of the materials, we should be inclined to find fault with his style, and still more with his arrangement, which is not always methodical and satisfactory. His purpose is praiseworthy; for it is the truth of history. And in pursuance of his object he in almost every page, calls in question the correctness of historians, points out the errors of haste and ignorance, traces them to their source, and generally demonstrates the truth of his own propositions. It is manifestly a work of very severe labor, prepared after long and diligent research, — after persevering examination, and comparison of a great number of books pertaining to the subject, with access to the best libraries, and with the advantage of an acquaintance with the Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian languages. The "Memoir" was first published in England; but we have heard the intimation, we know not on how good authority, that the author is an American.* Whoever he is, he understands himself and his subject, and we hope he will be encouraged to fill up the extensive plan of which, as he intimates in the Preface, the present "Memoir" forms but a small part. Especially at this time are such efforts important and valuable, in order to counteract the mass of historical error, that is pouring forth from the press, like a rushing tide, in popular histories, in abridgments, Cabinet Libraries, and Cyclopædias, which by their pleasing style lead captive the many. The whole value of

* The author of this article thoroughly examined the "Memoir," and wrote this review, without knowing the name or the country of the author of the "Memoir." We presume that we are committing no offence in saying that it is understood to be the work of Mr. ——— Biddle of Philadelphia. An interesting fact also, connected with the authorship and the subject of the "Memoir" is, that Holbein's portrait of Sebastian Cabot, described in the Appendix (pp. 317–319), has been purchased by Mr. Biddle, who has so successfully illustrated the history of the man. — *Ed.*

history depends upon its truth. It should be a mirror reflecting with spirit, and above all with accuracy, the character of persons and events of former ages. We would not be deluded with false images received through an imperfect or distorted medium. We would resist the tendency of the present age to numerous and hasty efforts in matters pertaining to history, and would rather beseech writers to remember the advice of Horace, which applies equally as well to prose as to poetry.

"Nonumque prematur in annum:
Membris intus positis, delere licebit
Quod non edideris. Nescit vox missa reverti."

ART. II. — *Annals of Tryon County; or the Border Warfare of New York during the Revolution.* By W. W. CAMPBELL. New York. J. & J. Harper. 1831. 8vo. pp. 267.

THIS volume is indebted to the attractive matter which it contains, rather than to the graces of style, or perspicuity and skill shown in the arrangement of its parts, for the interest excited by its perusal. The author tells us, that the formation of a literary society at Cherry Valley, in 1830, whose principal object was "to collect facts illustrative of the natural and civil history of that section of country," led to the composition of the work. It is manifest that he has had access to very valuable materials for the execution of his purpose; and many original documents are introduced into the body of the volume, which, although destructive in a considerable degree of the continuity of the narrative, are of the highest interest, and amply compensate for the interruption they occasion. We object, however, *totis viribus*, to this mode of constructing history. It is too much like shifting the labor on the reader, that properly appertains to the author. It is giving the materials of history, rather than history itself,—making *every man his own historian*, rather than furnishing the work complete to our hands. The advice we should offer to writers of this class is, to place as many documents as they please in an Appendix, but to leave the text unbroken.

Tryon County owed its name to the distinguished tory

who was Governor of New York at the breaking out of the revolutionary war. The name was afterwards changed to Montgomery, which is now borne by a portion of the old county. It embraced all the western part of the Province, commencing at a line about forty miles beyond Albany. The settlements were chiefly along the banks of the Mohawk, and in the beautiful valleys bordering, at unequal distances, upon that river. The first European inhabitants who planted on this fertile territory, were a colony of Germans from the Palatinate, who, in the early part of the last century, established themselves in several places along the Mohawk. In 1722, they had penetrated as far as the German Flats, near the site of the present flourishing village of Herkimer, about ninety miles from Albany. The towns of Oppenheim, Palatine, &c., were founded by them. It is not on this people, however, that Mr. Campbell bestows his attention. Cherry Valley, the scene of his nativity and early life, is to him the centre of attraction, and the principal theatre of the events he records. His excursions to the valley of the Mohawk are, however, numerous, in which he gathers up many a sorrowful, as well as gallant, tale of border warfare. Cherry Valley is situated about ten miles from the Mohawk on the south, in one of the most romantic spots of that delightful region, surrounded by scenery of a grand and striking character. The whole valley from which the town derives its name, is sixteen miles in length, and varies from one quarter of a mile to a mile in breadth. The chain of highlands on the east belongs to the Catskill range, and rises at the distance of three miles from the village, to the height of two thousand feet. From this summit, called Mount Independence, a wide and charming prospect opens, of unsurpassed beauty and extent. Such are some of the natural features of Cherry Valley.

The settlement of the Valley was commenced in the summer of 1740, by Mr. John Lindesay, a Scotch gentleman, who obtained a patent for a considerable extent of territory, and removed thither with his family from New York. The first winter of Mr. Lindesay's residence at Cherry Valley was a peculiarly hard one, and not having made a sufficiently ample provision for it, and being cut off by distance and an almost impassible barrier of mountain from all intercourse with the Mohawk settlements, they had before them the dreadful

death by famine. Fortunately a solitary Indian came among them, who readily undertook to transport supplies on his back from the distant settlements for their relief, and actually performed this service through the winter. The following year the Rev. Samuel Dunlop, a gentleman of education and worth, was induced by Mr. Lindsay to join the settlement, together with about thirty persons of the Scottish-Irish colony at Londonderry, New Hampshire. The following account of the origin of the name of the Valley, and other circumstances connected with its settlement, is not without interest.

"Mr. Dunlop, being engaged in writing some letters, inquired of Mr. Lindsay where he should date them, who proposed the name of a town in Scotland; Mr. Dunlop, pointing to some fine wild cherry trees, and to the valley, replied, 'Let us give our place an appropriate name, and call it Cherry Valley,' which was readily agreed to; it was for a long time the distinguishing name of a large section of country, south and west. Soon after the arrival of these settlers, measures were taken for the erection of a saw-mill and grist-mill, and a building for a school-house and church. Mr. Dunlop left Ireland under an engagement of marriage with a young lady of that country, and having made the necessary arrangements for his future residence in Cherry Valley, returned to fulfil it. This engagement was conditional; if he did not return in seven years from the time of his departure, it should be optional with her to abide by or put an end to the contract; the time had almost expired; she had heard nothing from him for some time, and supposed him either dead or unfaithful; another offered, was accepted, and the day appointed for the marriage. In the meantime Mr. Dunlop had been driven off the coast of Scotland by a storm; after a detention of several days, he finally made a port in Ireland, and hastening on his journey, arrived the day previous; his arrival was as joyful as it was unexpected; he was married, and returned immediately with his wife to Cherry Valley, and entered upon his duties as the first pastor of its little church. A log-house had been erected to the north of Mr. Lindsay's on the declivity of the little hill upon which his house was situated; where, though possessing little of this world's wealth, they offered up the homage of devout and grateful hearts. . . . Mr. Dunlop, having received a classical education, opened a school for the instruction of boys, who came from the settlements upon the Mohawk, and from Schenectady and Albany. It is worthy of remark, that this was the first grammar school in the state west of Albany. The boys were received into his house, and con-

stituted a part of his family. The extreme simplicity of the times may be learned from the fact, that they often went into the fields, and there recited their lessons as they followed their instructor about, while engaged in his usual avocations upon his farm; several individuals along the Mohawk, who were afterwards conspicuous in the Revolution, thus received the first rudiments of their education." pp. 21 - 24.

The sequel of the story of Mr. Dunlop and his lady is told in the following paragraph of the author's account of the destruction of Cherry Valley by the Tories and Indians, in 1778.

"Another party of Indians surrounded the house of the Rev. Samuel Dunlop. *His wife was immediately killed.* The old gentleman and his daughter were preserved by Little Aaron, a chief of the Mohawks, who led him out from the house, tottering with age, and stood beside him to protect him. An Indian passing by, pulled his hat from his head, and ran away with it: the chief pursued him, and regained it; on his return, another Indian had carried away his wig; the rain was falling upon his bare head, while his whole system shook like an aspen under the combined influence of age, fear, and cold. He was released a few days after, but the shock was too violent; he died about a year after." p. 112.

The dreadful cruelties practised during the Revolution by the British and their savage allies, in New York and Pennsylvania, towards even the helpless and suffering inhabitants, are well known to those conversant with the history of that period. The volume before us contains many tragic details of that horrid warfare. The massacres of Wyoming and Cherry Valley form but a small portion of the story. Gouverneur Morris has well characterized the deadly hostility that actuated the parties on those frightful occasions: "Let me recall, gentlemen, to your recollection," he says, "that bloody field in which Herkimer fell. There was found the Indian and the white man born on the banks of the Mohawk, their left hand clenched in each other's hair, the right grasping, in a gripe of death, the knife plunged in each other's bosom; thus they lay frowning!"* There is in the Appendix to this volume a document that confirms the most appalling accounts yet given of the use made by the British government of their Indian auxiliaries. It is a letter accompanying *eight*

* Address before the New York Historical Society.

packages of scalps, sent by the Seneca chiefs to the Governor of Canada, which were captured by an American officer. The first package is described in the following manner.

"No. I. Containing forty-three scalps of Congress soldiers, killed in different skirmishes; these are stretched on black hoops, four inches diameter; the inside of the skin painted red, with a small black spot to denote their being killed with bullets. *Also sixty-two farmers killed in their houses*; the hoops red; the skin painted brown, and marked with a hoe; a black circle all around to denote their being surprised in the night; and a black hatchet in the middle to signify their being killed with that weapon." Another "containing ninety-eight farmers, killed in their houses; marked, *a little red foot*, to show they stood upon their defence, and died fighting for their lives and families."

This horrid document was accompanied by a written address of the Indians to their political Father, the first sentence of which contains an averment that could not well be disputed. "Father! We send you herewith many scalps that you may see that *we are not idle friends*."

There are other portions of this interesting book to which we should like to refer, if our limits would permit.

ART. III. — *Directions for Invigorating and Prolonging Life; or the Invalid's Oracle*. By WILLIAM KITCHENER, M. D. From the Sixth London Edition; revised and improved by T. S. BARRETT, Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery. New York. J. & J. Harper. 1831. 12mo. pp. 252.

LIFE and health are great goods, the former prized by all, the latter unfortunately hardly prized enough, except by those who have had the misfortune to lose it. Yet these are a numerous class; and when we look about us, and see how many of our acquaintances are sufferers from one form or another of disease, groaning in spirit and pining in body under some of the ills "that the flesh is heir to," we should fancy, that a work like the one whose title stands at the head of this article, would be a captivating treatise; and would attract to its pages many an anxious eye, seeking for relief from present suffering, or for the means of escaping that

which may be to come. That they may be enabled to form some estimate how far it will do for them to depend upon the responses of the "Oracle" to their inquiries, is the object we propose in our present labors, having ourselves cultivated the art of this divination, and become somewhat familiar with the rules of the worship that the Goddess of Health exacts from her votaries.

When the worthy Doctor's first publication, "The Cook's Oracle," met our view, so well did his name harmonize with the sphere of his lucubrations, that we verily thought it assumed for the occasion, a mere *nom de guerre*, as the French term it; and imagined also, that the scientific capitals M. D. following it were likewise assumed as an escutcheon of pretence, to give due weight and authority to him who thus claimed the empire of the realm of cookery, and undertook to regulate for mankind the very important and daily concern of what they should put in their mouths; an affair of no small consequence, considering that mankind live by eating. We have since understood by the public prints that William Kitchener is, or was, a real personage, actually an M. D. as set forth in the title-page of his work, a laudable cultivator of the science of gastronomy, and a practiser, as well as professor, of good eating and drinking, as abundantly displayed in the contents of his volumes. This indeed he openly announces somewhere in the present work, stating his motto to be, "*Dum vivimus, vivamus*;" being no cultivator of an ascetic philosophy, nor making either virtue or pleasure to consist in painful denial of natural appetite, or abstinence from the use of the various good things, which the bounty of our Creator has placed within our reach. On the contrary, his object is avowedly, to enjoy such in the greatest possible degree; that is, not by enjoying them to excess, but with such limitation and restriction, as shall preserve unimpaired, or even invigorate, the powers of enjoyment, and preserve them in fitness for use to the latest period to which life may be protracted; producing the great, and we fear somewhat rare, blessing of "a sound mind in a sound body," till Death, like what the ancients fabled him, the brother of Sleep, shall substitute his own deep repose of the grave for the nightly slumbers of the couch.

In the doctrine thus generally announced, there seems to be much of the true philosophy of happiness, at least as far

as that may depend upon bodily comfort and enjoyment ; and that these have much influence upon the comfort and enjoyment of the mind, no one will dispute, who has ever had even so little of disease as may arise from a small cavity in one of the organs of mastication.

How well the particular precepts of this doctrine are suited to its general views, and to what effective power they reach, may be shown by an examination of the work before us ; though to avail one's self fully of them in practice, the "Oracle of the Cook" must be consulted, as well as that of the Invalid.

The contents of the work are comprised under the following heads : Art of Invigorating Life ; Reducing Corpulence ; Sleep ; Siesta ; Clothes ; Fire ; Influence of Cold ; Air ; Exercise ; Bathing ; Wine ; Peptic Precepts ; The Pleasure of Making a Will ; and Extracts from Cornaro's Writings. We cannot make a particular examination of subjects so numerous ; yet a few remarks seem necessary on one or two of these articles, since the work is one of a popular character, and on subjects, that in many cases properly come under the direction of a medical adviser, and may tempt some, to their own harm, to endeavour to dispense with his services, and to put their faith on their own interpretation of the "Oracle," and the circumstances to which its dictates may apply, without adequate preliminary information to understand either rightly.

The First Part contains a general summary of the doctrine of invigorating and prolonging life, and the following articles are expansions of the particular subjects mentioned in it, examining them more in detail, and suggesting such peculiar modifications, as seem necessary for different circumstances.

The leading idea of the system is borrowed from the practice of *training*, employed to fit men for different contests requiring great exercise of muscular strength and activity, by which process the bodies of those submitting to it are in the course of a few weeks brought into the highest possible development of physical power. The principles of this system of training, suitably modified, are to be applied to the diet, exercise, &c. of an invalid, and his body is thereby to be brought back from its state of debility, and imperfect performance of animal functions, to the vigor and perfection of health. By systematically living upon a similar plan this

vigor and health are to be preserved from all but the inevitable and general decay, attendant upon the lapse of years and the original limited period of endurance assigned to all human frames.

In this general view, the doctrine wears a plausible appearance, and undoubtedly contains much valuable truth, if it can be but rightly applied. Unfortunately there lies the great difficulty. To admit of being benefited by such a system, the body of the invalid should be merely that of one, who is so in the strictest meaning of the term, that is, one who is suffering merely from debility, from want of proper action and power in the frame, considered as an assemblage of organs designed for the performance of certain duties. He should be free from any actual changes in the proper structure of those organs, and not only so, but from those functional derangements, tending to such alteration in structure, which require rest, soothing, depletion, abstinence from all excitement, &c., in short from almost every thing properly called *disease*. Now of these things there are many; and, if we may believe some celebrated French pathologists, every thing that is not health is one of these very cases. Without going, however, quite to this length, there are enough of these states, existing in many laboring under ill health, to render the training system one of much danger to them, capable of confirming and aggravating their complaints, instead of removing them.

Invalids are not, however, generally capable of estimating for themselves, how far their cases may be those of mere debility, and how far complicated with circumstances of more serious import. Indeed, physicians of great skill are often deceived and baffled in attempting to form such estimates, though vastly more competent to do it rightly. It would not, therefore, be safe or prudent for any one, whose health is much or seriously impaired, to attempt such a course without the sanction of competent medical advice; though we believe, that under proper regulations and with such advice it might often be of much service, and possibly be practised with advantage more than it is.

For those who are well, we think it would be extremely salutary to regulate their modes and habits of life upon some such general principles, or rather upon those of temperance in all things, simplicity, and reasonable variety in the way of

change. Such is pretty much the substance of the long treatises that have been published on the art of preserving health by diet. The general principles laid down by our author do not differ materially from these ; but when he comes to the enumeration of particulars, he seems to us to show satisfactorily, how difficult it is to judge of measure and quantity. What he speaks of as simple and regulated diet, would seem to us, and, we think, to many of our readers, somewhat excessive and luxurious ; e. g. breakfast of beef tea ; at 11 A. M., luncheon, with beer and *wine* or *brandy* to wash it down ; at 3 P. M., dinner, with beer or *wine and water* or *brandy and water*, and a *few glasses of wine* after it ; at 7 P. M., tea or milk with a teaspoonful of *rum* ; finally, supper with beer or *wine*. This seems to us rather too liberal for most invalids, and altogether unnecessary for one in health, especially in the article of wine and spirit. The author to be sure says, the less of these the better, but on the other hand, he does not limit the quantity even to what is put down here, but says in general terms, as much wine or other diffusible stimulus as previous habits or other circumstances may render necessary or agreeable, so as to secure a comfortable feeling of animation and briskness of circulation. This is opening wide the door for excess to enter in. We recollect reading of an old fox-hunter, who supported his tipping habits by the authority of St. Paul, quoting the passage wherein Timothy was advised to drink no more water but a *little wine*. Being asked what he supposed St. Paul meant by a *little*, he replied, "About a gallon a day." Dr. Kitchener's advice, we fancy, would by many be construed with equal liberality. Herein, we think, is the great fault of his book ; while both in the laying down of his general system, and in treating in detail of the different topics belonging to it, he makes many very good remarks, such as would well pay one for perusing and remembering them, yet by the latitude and indulgence to habit that he allows, he counteracts much of the salutary tendency of his own precepts, and by his particular directions fosters a habit of gratifying the stomach and body, far better adapted to make a man a sensualist, one wholly occupied in caring for the comfort of his corporeal frame, than fitted for exercising the useful energies of life. Among those who live to eat and drink, this system may perhaps pass for being very temperate ; and to those who have indulged in these

pleasures to excess, its comparative moderation may be restorative; but to those who eat and drink to live, it is a system of excess, and more likely to do injury than good, to beget habits of indulgence, that may ultimately prove highly pernicious.

For these reasons we should by no means recommend the "Oracle" to the credence of either the sick or well. The evil and the good in it are too much mixed together to be readily separated by the multitude of readers. To any that may read it we should say, that they should take the general precepts with regard to eating and drinking, and forget the particular illustrations. The observations on fire, clothing, bathing, &c., are many of them very good, and may be perused with advantage by all, particularly those whose health is impaired, or whose constitutions require much attention to little things for preserving a healthful state.

The work in its present form is edited by a medical gentleman of New York, with additions, &c., by the editor. The additions are in themselves well enough; but we think, that on the whole the editor would have done better service to the public, if he had also retrenched *not a little* from the volume. By a judicious selection, and especially by leaving out things like those we have censured as leading to too much indulgence and too exclusive attention to bodily pleasure, we think a work might be made out of that before us, which would be much more valuable and safe, though perhaps with less *oracular* pretensions.

ART. IV. — *Plan of the Founder of Christianity*. By F. V. REINHARD, S. T. D., Court Preacher at Dresden. Translated from the Fifth German Edition, by OLIVER A. TAYLOR, A. M., Resident Licentiate, Theological Seminary, Andover. New York. G. & C. & H. Carvill. 1831. 12mo. pp. 359.

FRANZ VOLKMAR REINHARD was for some time Professor of Theology at Wittemberg, and subsequently Court Preacher at Dresden, where he died in 1812, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He was a sound scholar, an eloquent preacher, and a voluminous writer, having published, besides the present work, systematic treatises on Theology and Morals, and about thirty volumes of Sermons.

A sketch of the work whose title is given above appeared first in Latin, in 1780, and the first German edition was published in 1781. It was occasioned by the appearance of the celebrated "*Wolfenbüttel Fragments*,"* and particularly by one on the "*Object of Jesus and his Disciples*," in which the ground was taken, that Jesus and his disciples were impostors, and that the object of the former was not the establishment of a universal religious institution, but was wholly of a political nature; — that he made use of the Jewish popular prejudices and expectations respecting a Messiah, for the purpose of overthrowing the existing state, and founding a merely earthly kingdom among the Jews; but being defeated and put to death, his disciples continued the imposture in another shape by attributing to him a moral object and the idea of a universal spiritual kingdom of God on earth.

In opposition to this theory and to similar views subsequently advanced by Bahrdr and others, Reinhard wrote his book. It is accordingly of the nature of an apologetical performance, and might on this account perhaps, and particularly from the character of the views above named, be thought to possess only a local and temporary interest. But as the author conducts the discussion on general principles, the work will be found to have a general and permanent value as a positive contribution to the proofs of the Christian religion. And the more so, because the subject is presented in a point of view which had not before been distinctly considered. The general *character* of Jesus, and the *salutary effects* of Christianity in the world, have indeed been very common sources of evidence in favor of the Christian religion. It had not, however, been distinctly considered that the *mere plan* conceived by the Founder of Christianity for the good of mankind is of such a nature as to mark him for the most extraordinary individual that has ever appeared in the world. The conception of such a plan in the mind of Jesus is a fact altogether without parallel. No human mind before him ever conceived the idea of establishing a universal spirit-

* *Wolfenbüttelsche Fragmente eines Ungenannten*, written by Reimarus, and published after his death by Lessing in his *Beyträge zur Geschichte und Litteratur aus den Schätzen der Herzoglichen Bibliothek zu Wolfenbüttel*, in 1777 and 1778.

ual kingdom of God, — a kingdom of truth, morality, and happiness ; — “ the idea of radically curing all the evil with which humanity is afflicted, and of raising up for the Creator an entirely new and better generation. No sage, no ruler, no hero of antiquity was ever capable of such enlargement, such elevation of thought.” And the question then is, whether there is any adequate solution of the existence of this plan, conceived and formed in the mind of Jesus, except by regarding him as inspired by God ; whether we are not justified in considering him, not only as the most exalted sage and greatest benefactor of mankind, but also as a most credible messenger of the Deity. And though these considerations may not afford *incontestable* proof of the divine origin of Christianity, yet they create a reasonable presumption of it, and form an important addition to the mass of evidence on this great subject.

Such is the scope of this work, in which throughout contemplating Jesus *as any other great man* of antiquity, the author compares his object and plan with *the benevolent views of other venerable men*, in order to show that his plan is the greatest, the most elevated, and most benevolent that has ever been conceived. The discussion is conducted with the clearness, lucid order, and logical connexion, by which all Reinhard's works are distinguished. The subject is treated in Three Parts. The First contains a sketch of the plan devised by Jesus for the good of mankind, in regard to its compass, its character, and the means by which it was to be effected. *ITS COMPASS.* The plan of Christ embraced mankind at large. This is attempted to be shown from the conduct of Christ — from his explicit assertions, and his instructions to his disciples, and also lies at the foundation of the doctrines which he inculcated. *ITS CHARACTER.* Jesus declared that he came to establish *the kingdom of God* on earth. That by this, however, he understood no such earthly monarchy as many of his countrymen expected, but a universal, spiritual, and religious institution, is evident from his conduct and his declarations. The plan of Jesus embraced the improvement of mankind in regard to religion, morality, and society. In regard to *Religion*, — by destroying the prevalent superstitions and spreading every where the doctrine of the one true God as the Father of mankind, and thus rendering religion clear and simple, and introducing a worship of God in

spirit and in truth. In regard to *Morality*,—by resolving it into love to the Supreme Father, and to men, his children; a love consisting in a disposition to imitate God and promote the general good. Thus he placed Morality in its true relation to Religion, rendered it universally intelligible, purified it, and secured it against fanaticism and extravagance. In regard to *Society*,—by means of this principle of love to God and man Jesus aimed to improve and exalt mankind in all the social and civil relations, connecting them together as closely as possible and leading them to the highest degree of cultivation and perfection. *THE MANNER in which this plan was to be EFFECTED.* Here it is shown that Jesus did not propose to effect his plan by *power*; nor is there any reason either from his instructions, or his private life, or the language of his friends, or their conduct after his death, to adopt the theory which some have held, that Jesus intended to effect his plan by means of a *Secret Society*. On the contrary, his language and his directions to his Apostles point only to the influence of instruction, persuasion, and institutions adapted to promote morality.

Having thus described the Plan of Christ, the Second Part is devoted to a comparison of it with the plans of the founders of states, the legislators, the kings, the statesmen, the heroes, and philosophers of antiquity; which are all shown to be either deficient in benevolence or in comprehension, and that no great man of antiquity, before Jesus, ever devised a benevolent plan for the whole human family.

In the Third Part, the practicability of the plan of Christ is discussed, and it is shown that the idea of establishing a universal religion, when contemplated under its proper conditions, is not chimerical. This religion is moral, intelligible, and spiritual, and possesses every requisite for a universal religion, inasmuch as it can be expressed in every language, and, losing nothing by being divested of all secular power, can adapt itself to every form of civil government.

Such a plan for the good of mankind demonstrates its author to have been the greatest and most exalted of men, possessing, in the highest degree and greatest harmony, true wisdom, strength of soul, power of will, and expansive benevolence. We look in vain for any thing like it in the history of the world.

The question now forces itself upon us, Whether these

qualities were or could have been developed in Jesus according to the ordinary laws of human nature. This question has been answered in the affirmative. The author of this work, however, attempts to show that such could not have been the case.

“The meaning of the question is not, whether, considered in general, it is possible for divine wisdom to project and arrange a series of natural causes by the operation of which, according to the natural laws of the human mind, such a character could be developed as Christ’s was. Left in this indefinite state, no one will wish to deny it; for who would not in general admit it to be possible for divine wisdom and power to operate by any means and arrangements which do not imply a contradiction? But the question is, whether, considering the *individual circumstances* and relations in which Jesus lived, ordinary causes could have produced as great effects as they must have done, in order to the formation of his mind.” p. 248.

It is then shown, that all the advantages which Jesus actually enjoyed, according to the testimony of history, or may be supposed to have enjoyed, with some appearance of probability, come far short of accounting for the formation and development of such a character and plan; that the opposers of the supernatural character of Jesus have attributed a greater influence to these circumstances than they could have had; and that many obstacles in the way of the natural education of Jesus have been passed over in silence. And the conclusion from the whole is, that “*if God was not with this man*, it is not easy to see how he became what he was; how he could possibly have acquired that heavenly dignity, greatness, and elevation, with which he stands forth unequalled and alone in the vast space of history, far surpassing all that is worthy of admiration upon earth.” Hence it is reasonable to regard him as the most exalted ambassador of God, and our Saviour.

Such is the course of argument pursued in this work. “The newness of the object which the author has in view,” says Tzschirner, “and the learning and acuteness which he displays in his investigations, as well as the clearness, nobleness, and impressiveness of his representations, have all conspired to procure for this work an extensive circulation and a powerful influence upon the age.” “It is considered,” says Böttiger, “as the best apology for Christianity that

moderntimes have produced." These citations, to omit a great many that might be made, show the estimation in which the work has been held in Germany; but unquestionably peculiar circumstances, and the character of the controversies at the time when it was written, gave it an importance and interest which it will not possess at the present time in this country.

We presume, however, that every one who reads it will consider it as a valuable contribution to the evidences for Christianity, and will thank Mr. Taylor for presenting it to the American public.

ART. V. — *Poems*, by WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT. New York. E. Bliss. 1832. 12mo. pp. 240.

It is a little surprising, that a writer who has been steadily before the public for fifteen years, and with a still increasing reputation, should have found ample room in one little volume for all that has given him such a place in popular favor. The *Poems*, as they appeared from time to time in one journal or another, were short and thoroughly finished; but they bore every mark of a prolific mind that had learnt the art and uses of compression. So that when Mr. Bryant proposed to give us a collection of the verses he had scattered through our popular literature, together with his longest Poem, "The Ages," we were prepared for a much larger book than this. How idle was it, and yet how natural, to measure the quantity of his lines by the fullness of our memories, the depth of our sympathies, and by the frequency of the images that he had brought before us. How idle would it be now to imagine that we have lost any thing, because he seems to have withheld so much. His abstemiousness is only in appearance. We have the fair product of the workings of a poetical spirit for many years. To say that he has not written enough for us, is perhaps not to understand fully how much we have already. To say that he has not written enough for his fame, is perhaps the same as to measure honorable age by number of years. May he go on and do more. When we think of the "Green River," we are almost tempted to whisper that there are ways besides a drudging profession in which he may feel bound to desert the

muse and "scrawl strange words with the barbarous pen." But our prerogative as admirers or critics goes not to this. And neither have we any right to press him to try his powers on one long work. Artists, to be sure, are not to expect, more than others, an exemption from public calls and expostulation, if they have once become favorites; and they are not beyond the reach of many useful hints. But to prescribe the extent or subject of a poem seems foolish and presumptuous; and, in the present case, any such suggestions might savour of ingratitude.

Indeed, it may not be easy to settle whether Mr. Bryant's success is not somewhat connected with the shortness of his poems. Not that he or Burns or Collins or Gray could not have succeeded in departments of poetry, where size is thought to be an essential matter by those who do not consider that the dimensions are well or ill only according to the material, and the skill and taste of the builder. The truth is, that it is hard to do a thing well in little space, and yet if well done in that, it is very sure to be popular. The difficulty, we suppose, lies chiefly in making a whole, or producing the effect of a whole, by a few touches, let the subject be ever so vast,—avoiding all appearance of constraint or affectation, and especially all appearance of something detached from an entire piece, or of a few bright thoughts being successfully snatched from a burning train. The short poem may owe some of its popularity to its light and unimposing appearance. There are not now many regular readers of every thing, who first go through with a poet's larger works, as those, of course, on which he rests his fame, and then the supplementary matters that serve to make the volume look more respectable. Most of us feel more heart to take up a short poem than a long one; and while we never doubt a moment that the variety, involution, and invention of a great epic or play are trials and proofs of higher genius than is necessary to furnish one or two hundred lines of lyric or descriptive poetry, we still feel equally sure that the power shown in the choicest smaller works is competent to any thing upon which it may be heartily employed. Then, the short piece is popular because it is easily retained, even to the very words; and it is often recalled purposely in vacant hours, and perhaps still oftener breaks upon us of itself at times when some strong present feeling harmonizes with

the strain of the remembered verse. And again, the closeness of a short poem may give it greater effect on the first reading, and leave more room too for the mind to add something every day to its early strong, though immature conception: and thus we may be humored with the idea that we are completing another man's work, when we are only obeying his will and purpose, and proving how thoroughly his work was already done.

Mr. Bryant's poetry may be called popular, and in the strictest sense of the word. It is valued not merely by those who are esteemed thorough judges in the art, but also by those who never ask themselves whether they know all the merits of one who pleases them, and who never define to themselves the exact character or amount of their pleasure. It is enough to them that they are pleased. A child may read his "Waterfowl" or "Evening Wind," and though it feel not all that riper minds may experience, yet it will have something of its own that they might envy, to nourish and swell its unformed fancy, and something that shall affect its taste and the direction of its imagination and perhaps its moral tone for ever. A poet of the highest genius is more likely to be intelligible and agreeable to all classes of readers than one of lower pretensions, if he is free from any private theory as to his art, and belongs to no school and has no ambition to establish one. Some of his best qualities may not be distinctly perceived by all; but an effect is produced on all by the most delicate and secret part of his workmanship. And it is mainly owing to his generously addressing himself to the universal sympathy of mankind, that his less obvious and rarest beauties started up in his way; and he will have the most of these, who at the same time has the most that is within the apprehension and relish of the largest number of readers. It is no affront to the multitude to say that they do not see the whole. The ancient philosopher had his secret and public doctrines, his morning and his evening walk for different sets of his disciples; and the distinction is degrading so far as it supposes that one man, however gifted, is competent to settle what is fit aliment for another. It is better that all should be laid open to all, so that we may throw ourselves as boldly into the whirl of intellectual influences, as we expose the outward senses to the light and air, and to the touch and pressure of every thing around us. And

yet it must be confessed, that in effect the genuine poet keeps up the philosopher's discrimination to this day. He does not, to be sure, set apart this deep mystery for the initiated, and that vulgar beauty for the crowd: the whole is given to every one upon the same legible page; but the interpretation of the writing will vary, and in ways and for causes that need not be enumerated. The poet in the meanwhile sees, with all humility, that few have taken his whole import, that he has impelled some farther than he had travelled himself, and at any rate that he has secured the general favor.

It will be easily conceived that Mr. Bryant never runs into mysticism; he always seems to be talking of what he has fully experienced in the most natural exercise of his faculties; we have the plain amount of what he has felt and revolved. A lofty and restless mind, in its eagerness to know more of our spiritual nature and capacities and of the relations that outward things sustain to us and to each other, may run into errors from mere impatience of what is obvious and near, and be tempted to ease its craving and dissatisfaction with violent and whimsical phantasies, when it cannot seize upon defined and communicable truths that seem grand enough for its desire and its grasp. A wilful distortion or obscurity of a familiar object or feeling may thus be mistaken for a discovery; and an unintelligibility that belongs wholly to the writer, he may think well enough accounted for by the novelty and profoundness of his speculations. There is no objection to a poet's or any other man's believing that more is yet to be known and ought to be known of the human soul, and its connexion with things present and things to come, and with the Supreme Intelligence. Let no one be satisfied with what is already ascertained or supposed to be ascertained. The bounds of reality are far beyond what the wildest dreamer has ever conjectured. But even in regions of the purest intelligence or passion, or depths never before explored, the poet should tell us only what in a sound use of his powers he has experienced there, and tell this too in language that comes near to human sympathy. Probably this is always practicable where he does not deceive himself. Mr. Bryant may write of mere facts or actual existences; a star, plant, or tempest, the flight of a bird or the flutter of a summer wind; and besides a delicate, minute delineation of

what is most obvious, he may give to them all, what we had never done; the common property has passed into his hands to be invested with qualities, uses, associations, which an original, glowing mind honestly sees to become it and belong to it; and we feel that the addition is just as real as the simple topic he began with; yes, an essential part of it, a newly discovered beauty in our old possession. There is not the slightest attempt to force upon it unnatural virtues or relations, or to connect with it feelings to which it could not have given birth. This air of naturalness, or veritableness, we should say distinguished all his views, his thinnest and his most gorgeous fancies, his notice of the faintest analogies and his profoundest reflections; and it is one signal effect of his poetry to breathe into others his own deep, cordial, purifying love of God's works, and relish of all natural feeling.

His language and numbers bear the same character of eloquent truth, and appear to be as much his own as the feelings or images they clothe. A delicate and practised ear has made him master of English verse in nearly all its varieties, and capable of sounding the very strain the sentiment is allied to. Words are to him as things felt, seen, or dreamt of, and as living interpreters to other minds; if the sound be not "instinct with spirit," what is it but a disturber of the air. His expression is luminous, easy, original, and though as finished as art can make it, yet the words seem to throng to the thoughts as "nimble and airy servitors" that know their office. There is no mockery nor swelling nor cloud of language. Magnificence here is as simple as humility. A poet professing to please only, is here found to make himself as responsible for what he says, as if he had undertaken some obviously pressing duty of life.

Besides a warm moral spirit that runs through many of his descriptions, a distinct moral truth is frequently introduced, and for the most part in a very natural way, either being wrought into the work as it is going on, or brought in with delicacy and feeling, as a closing reflection upon what has just exercised the imagination. Such attempts by the best hands are often very unsuccessful; the mind seems to plunge suddenly from its height. Mr. Bryant has escaped the inequality and languor that were to be feared, and passes with the utmost ease from his finest pictures to a consoling, exalting, and sometimes highly philosophical reflection. The prevailing

tone of feeling is serene both in passages that are solemn and tender. But sometimes there is passion, as in "Rizpah"; not flashing nor smothered, but deep and long nursed; and as we think there is passion or something like it in a prophet's rapture, as his voice comes sounding up from the deeps of the future, so we have fancied that in the lines to "The Past," we heard a note as thrilling from "the dark backward and abysm of time."

"Thou unrelenting Past!
Strong are the barriers round thy dark domain,
And fetters, sure and fast,
Hold all that enter thy unbreathing reign.

"Far in thy realm withdrawn
Old empires sit in sullenness and gloom,
And glorious ages gone
Lie deep within the shadow of thy womb.

"Childhood, with all its mirth,
Youth, Manhood, Age, that draws us to the ground,
And last, Man's Life on earth,
Glide to thy dim dominions, and are bound.

"Thou hast my better years,
Thou hast my earlier friends — the good — the kind,
Yielded to thee with tears —
The venerable form, the exalted mind.

"My spirit yearns to bring
The lost ones back — yearns with desire intense,
And struggles hard to wring
Thy bolts apart, and pluck thy captives thence.

"In vain — thy gates deny
All passage save to those who hence depart;
Nor to the streaming eye
Thou givest them back — nor to the broken heart.

"In thy abysses hide
Beauty and excellence unknown — to thee
Earth's wonder and her pride
Are gathered, as the waters to the sea." pp. 21, 22.

"Thanatopsis," one of his earliest and most popular poems, may be in a lower strain than this; but there is a sublime air over the whole. It is a glorious dream of a burial-place to whose magnificence all time and all creation are minister-

ing. There is not a word of the pyramid, or cemetery, or any thing of man's device, to make us forget that nature has prepared a grave for all her children.

"The hills

Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun, — the vales
Stretching in pensive quietness between ;
The venerable woods — rivers that move
In majesty, and the complaining brooks
That make the meadows green ; and poured round all,
Old ocean's gray and melancholy waste, —
Are but the solemn decorations all
Of the great tomb of man. The golden sun,
The planets, all the infinite host of heaven,
Are shining on the sad abodes of death,
Through the still lapse of ages." pp. 25, 26.

The subject is a favorite one. The "Death of the Flowers" is the sweetest dirge we remember, and even the beauties of "June" are all funereal, all associated with the grave. There is nothing of despondency in any of these views, nor a heartless fabrication of horrors out of scenes in which others find only peace or gayety. The tendency is to make the laughter thoughtful, and strip the tomb of some false terrors ; in short, to add one more to the thousand uses of all that we see.

Without attempting to analyse any passage, we will take a few stanzas from the "Hymn to the North Star," that may show his power of mingling warmth and cheerfulness with solemnity and grandeur.

"The sad and solemn night
Has yet her multitude of cheerful fires ;
The glorious host of light
Walk the dark hemisphere till she retires :
All through her silent watches, gliding slow,
Her constellations come, and climb the heavens, and go.

"Day, too, hath many a star
To grace his gorgeous reign, as bright as they :
Through the blue fields afar,
Unseen, they follow in his flaming way :
Many a bright lingerer, as the eve grows dim,
Tells what a radiant troop arose and set with him.

"And thou dost see them rise,
 Star of the Pole! and thou dost see them set.
 Alone, in thy cold skies,
 Thou keep'st thy old unmoving station yet,
 Nor join'st the dances of that glittering train,
 Nor dipp'st thy virgin orb in the blue western main.

"There, at morn's rosy birth,
 Thou lookest meekly through the kindling air,
 And eve, that round the earth
 Chases the day, beholds thee watching there;
 There noontide finds thee, and the hour that calls
 The shapes of polar flame to scale heaven's azure walls."

pp. 202, 203.

The following cluster of gay images from the "Summer Wind" will lose some of its beauty to one who remembers not the first lines of this exquisite poem. He should pant in the fierce heat, to enjoy all this freshness.

"Why so slow,
 Gentle and voluble spirit of the air?
 Oh, come and breathe upon the fainting earth
 Coolness and life. Is it that in his caves
 He hears me? See, on yonder woody ridge,
 The pine is bending his proud top, and now,
 Among the nearer groves, chesnut and oak
 Are tossing their green boughs about. He comes!
 Lo, where the grassy meadow runs in waves!
 The deep distressful silence of the scene
 Breaks up with mingling of unnumbered sounds
 And universal motion. He is come,
 Shaking a shower of blossoms from the shrubs,
 And bearing on their fragrance; and he brings
 Music of birds, and rustling of young boughs,
 And sound of swaying branches, and the voice
 Of distant waterfalls. All the green herbs
 Are stirring in his breath; a thousand flowers,
 By the road-side and the borders of the brook,
 Nod gaily to each other; glossy leaves
 Are twinkling in the sun, as if the dew
 Were on them yet, and silver waters break
 Into small waves and sparkle as he comes." p. 122.

The "Evening Wind" breathes a deeper and tenderer strain.

"Go rock the little wood-bird in his nest,
 Curl the still waters, bright with stars, and rouse

The wide old wood from his majestic rest,
 Summoning from the innumerable boughs
 The strange, deep harmonies that haunt his breast;
 Pleasant shall be thy way where meekly bows
 The shutting flower, and darkling waters pass,
 And 'twixt the o'ershadowing branches and the grass.

"The faint old man shall lean his silver head
 To feel thee; thou shalt kiss the child asleep,
 And dry the moistened curls that overspread
 His temples, while his breathing grows more deep."

pp. 32.

In closing, we feel the pressure of things still untouched. Not that we care to notice a faulty rhyme, as of *bosom* and *blossom*, or an accent upon the last syllable of *solitude*, or the use of a striking expression more than once. We rather remember the delightful pieces we could not so much as name, and the ease, spirit, and fancy of the humorous ones for which we were not prepared; and some natural thoughts of the future were kindled at this renewed acquaintance with one of the great poets of our age, born of our stock and inspired with our scenes. And thus, having left unsaid a great deal more than we have written, we send the reader to the book or his memory to finish the criticism and better the commendation.

ART. VI. — *Decimi Junii Juvenalis et Auli Persii Flacci Satiræ Expurgatæ, Notis Illustratæ*. Curavit F. P. LEVERETT. Bostoniæ. Hilliard, Gray, Little, & Wilkins. 1832. 12mo. pp. 252.

TACITUS, in his fine delineations of the manners of the ancient Germans, says, that vice was not treated by them with levity or ridicule, nor was an apology sought for corruption by pleading the age or customs of society. Thus it was that what they deemed vice or corruption was punished with unrelenting severity, and did not need even the intervention of a legal tribunal. But the case is vastly altered when any kind of wickedness has become so general, as to constitute a part of public manners. Then of course there can be no effectual remedy in common sentiment, in moral

means, or in public authority ; and in some cases, those who are not included in any of those classes of offenders which are exposed to public odium and disgrace, or incur the penalties of the laws,

“ Safe from the bar, the pulpit, and the throne,
Are touched and shamed by ridicule alone.”

In the time of Domitian, when Juvenal wrote his Satires, the grossest licentiousness had become so prevalent and fashionable, as to be called the way of the world ; and this great moral poet wielded different kinds of weapons, in his warfare against the corruption of the age. He more frequently, however, appears in the character of the indignant censor, and stern, uncompromising moralist, than in that of one who aims to show his power and dexterity in vexatious and torturing raillery. Especially is this the case when he encounters the enormous vices of the times. It was also more consonant to his temperament, and to the tenets of the Stoic philosophy to which he was inclined, to assail the guilty with grave severity, than, for the sake of ministering merely to the love of the ridiculous in others, to tamper with wickedness, which he himself loathed, and often so loathsomely portrayed. The follies and faults of taste and fashion may well be met by wit and ridicule, such as we find so predominant in Horace, and which in him are natural and becoming ; but Juvenal was evidently a grave and contemplative philosopher and moralist, inclined to severe invective ; and this was alike natural and becoming in him. It is true, that in his first Satire, after bringing forward legitimate subjects for the poet's invective, in a sort of climax, from the rapid ebullitions of poetasters through various prevalent follies and vices up to the most gross and appalling crimes, he asks whether such subjects are not worthy the lucubrations of Horace. But it is manifest, in general, that Horace was more fitted as a satirist for the region of taste, and Juvenal for that of morals ; and this difference in their natural bent gave rise to the distinction that we find to exist between them, to a certain extent, in this species of poetry. For though Horace does encounter notorious vices, as well as fashionable faults and follies, his attacks are not marked by that spirit of solemn denunciation and deep aversion which we find so prevalent in Juvenal. Thus, as one of the old scholiasts says, he rarely penetrates beyond the surface,

and contents himself with smiling and showing his white teeth, while Juvenal bites his prey to the very bone.*

Persius was a practical Stoic, and his Satires are marked with the unyielding honesty and sincerity of his character. But they are in many places exceedingly obscure; and none of them seem to have that clear continuity of thought, and that visible unity of purpose which are so generally found in Juvenal. Still less does he reach that grandeur of persuasion, of reproof, of warning, of denunciation flowing out in a strain of vehemence, sometimes indeed little short of declamation, which we meet so often in Juvenal, the prince of satirists. We have said that Persius is often very obscure. Dryden, who gave Casaubon the praise of having understood him better than all the preceding commentators, adds also, that "the best commentators can but guess his meaning in many passages, and none can be certain that he has divined rightly." We are disposed to think, however, that at the present time, and with the aid of successive commentators, the meaning may be pretty satisfactorily ascertained, even in the darkest passages. But it is the result of great labor, a labor also far less amply compensated than that which is bestowed upon Juvenal, who doubly rewards our toils — *delectando pariterque monendo*. Persius, as a writer, was prior to Juvenal, in the order of time, and died probably before he commenced the thirtieth year of his age, and before the close of Nero's execrable reign.

It will be readily perceived by our remarks, that we do not attach much value to Persius as a class-book in our schools or colleges. But since his Satires are so generally added to editions of Juvenal, Mr. Leverett has judged wisely in doing the same, and furnishing the means for the curious and thorough student in Latin to become acquainted with that author. Juvenal, on the contrary, is a book which is very generally interesting, as well to young scholars as to their elders. We know that his gross descriptions here and there of lewdness

* Persius, who borrows freely from Horace, without in other respects imitating or resembling him, draws his character as a satirist in a manner not inconsistent with this description of the commentator.

"Omne vafer vitium ridenti Flaccus amico
Tangit, et admissus circum præcordia ludit,
Callidus excusso populum suspendere naso."

Sat. I. v. 115 et seqq.

and obscenity, have been alleged as objections against his Satires being introduced into a course of instruction; but the objectors will be surprised to find the small amount of lines omitted in Mr. Leverett's edition, with the exception of three of the Satires, and how little is left with which even the fastidious will be displeased. Add to this, as we strenuously maintain, that no lures are held out to entice the unwary; that the descriptions of vice are absolutely disgusting, and intended to be met by the disgust of every pure reader, and the shame and conviction of every polluted one; that there is scarcely a Satire which does not begin or end with a striking or noble moral, while every thing preceptive and monitory, proceeding from his examples, is moral throughout; and we are satisfied that the apprehensions concerning this author, compared with some others in Greek and Latin, which maintain their place in schools by the right of prescription, are exceedingly ill founded. This we say, meaning fully to approve what Mr. Leverett has done in the way of omissions, and presuming also that from the nature of the subjects, most teachers would choose to pass by the Second, Sixth, and Ninth Satires; still leaving enough of the author to occupy his share in a course of instruction.

The text of Mr. Leverett's Juvenal is taken without any deviation from a recent edition of Ruperti's Juvenal. It differs in some of its readings from that of 1801, which is the only edition of Ruperti which we have before us, and also from Mr. Leverett's edition of 1828. Of course Mr. Leverett retains those words which have the ancient orthography; but he has failed in some instances to indicate it in the Notes; while Ruperti, in the edition of 1801, does indicate it in every example which we have examined, except in the word *infittetur*; and this word, by accident undoubtedly, he has spelled with *c* in the antepenult, where it occurs in his "Index Verborum." But *urgueat*, which Mr. Leverett has passed by without remark, is thus noticed by Ruperti, where it first occurs: "*Urgueat* reposui pro *urgeat*, quoniam ita in optimis libris et numis reperitur." This may seem rather too minute a criticism; but it is of some importance, since our Latin school-dictionaries do not give the ancient orthography.

We pass by such doubtful readings as do not essentially affect the sense, to notice one or two which have puzzled the critics, in their animadversions upon the text.

In the Fourth Satire, containing the pleasant mock-heroic description of the council held over the Turbot, Domitian presiding, Crispinus, who figures in the assembly, is also previously introduced as a gluttonous epicure, who, from being a beggarly Egyptian, had become by the favor of the Emperor chief among the Equestrian order; Crispinus, who formerly stretched his lungs in crying fish of his own country which he sold *pactâ mercede*,—as the reading was once (and we wish it had been once for all) settled by Casaubon, and by Ruperti in his edition of 1801. But the text which Mr. Leverett follows, who, as in duty bound, sticks to his text, has *fricta de merce*, a reading which seems neither to have been seen nor imagined by Ruperti in 1801. But afterwards, having rung all the changes upon *merce* and *mercede*—*pacta*, *facta*, *fracta*, *fricta*, &c., it appears that *fricta de merce* charmed him most. A savoury reading; but, *cave, lector*—it does not mean fried fish, but fish dried in some way by the application of heat, and so prepared by the addition of condiments as to preserve them for future use or a foreign market. Mr. Leverett tells us, that Lemaire in his edition of Juvenal, Paris, 1823, adopts Ruperti's reading, but is very ready to admit *fracta de merce*:—that is, he sold the *siluri*, the box and merchandise or mass of fish being broken or divided into parts (*Gallice en détail*), or, as we say, by retail. Ruperti notices this reading, which is found both in some manuscript and published *codices*, and quotes some of the scholiasts who defend and interpret it; but he treats it with a sneer, as a silly reading. So it is that doctors disagree. (Sat. iv. verse 32.)

We begin to feel some misgivings concerning this subject, lest we should become tedious to many of our readers; and therefore, though we had singled out other examples for remark, we promptly desist. It is due to Mr. Leverett, however, to say, that very few of his Notes have any thing to do with criticisms on various readings. This is as it should be.

The Notes of Mr. Leverett are very neat and concise, and suited to the purpose of his book. Juvenal and Persius abound in allusions to mythology, manners, customs, and persons, that leave so much to be supplied, in order to perceive how they are apposite, or how to come at a meaning beyond what meets the ear, in the way of analogy or inference, that a very frequent occurrence of notes is necessary

to one who reads those authors for the first time. Mr. Leverett has afforded such helps in his Notes; and they are composed, compiled, altered, or abridged from other editors with good judgment and taste.

In reading through Mr. Leverett's edition of Juvenal and Persius with tolerable care we have discovered no literal errors in the text of either of the authors, which we consider ascribable to the editor. In the Notes we have met only with two; but we are not prepared to vouch for the accuracy of the Notes in this respect, with the same degree of confidence as for that of the text; because we have not read them all.

A short biographical account of each author precedes the Notes, and a brief description of the purpose and general contents of each Satire precedes the notes to the several Satires respectively.

The Editor has performed his labors with the fidelity and learning to be looked for in an accomplished scholar; and we regret exceedingly that the mechanical execution of the book does not correspond to its literary merits. The general appearance of the page does not please the eye; sometimes the impression is faint and the letters are not well defined; the titles of the *i* and *j* are often wanting, and there is, in many instances, a defective impression at the ends of lines. We notice here the same faults which we pointed out in the edition of Sallust, which was reviewed in our last number. In nearly twenty instances we have found a period or some other sign for a pause wanting at the end of a line, and in two instances we have marked the absence of letters in the same situation; as Juv. Sat. xiii. v. 64, we find *bimembr* for *bimembri*, and in the same Satire, v. 232, *sacel* for *sacello*. We have said that no literal errors have been found by us in the text which are chargeable to the editor. Those which we have mentioned pertain, we suppose, to the mechanical execution, after the correction of the proof-sheets. Whether the copy before us is better or worse than the average of the impression we cannot say. But to speak in general terms, we regret that the impression is not more clear and exact, and that it does not present to the eye a more attractive page. We cannot help comparing this book with Mr. Leverett's edition of Juvenal, published in 1828, a very neat and accurate little volume. One cannot look over its pages without

being prejudiced in its favor. Our school-books should be reasonably cheap; but we ought not to regard the addition of a few cents to a volume as a matter of great import, when compared with what is of so much more consequence, namely, winning the favor and smiles of ingenuous youth.

ART. VII. — *Scientific Tracts, designed for Instruction and Entertainment, and adapted to Schools, Lyceums, and Families.* Conducted by JOSIAH HOLBROOK AND OTHERS. Boston. Carter & Hendee. 1832. Vol. i. pp. 580. Vol. II. Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 48.

THESE tracts are professedly designed as instruments for operating in the great and common cause of Popular Education. The aim of the conductors is "to avoid theoretical speculations and technicalities, to simplify language and facts, and to give the whole work a moral cast." These are truly indispensable requisites in disseminating instruction for the mass of the people; and it becomes us to inquire how the work thus far justifies these pretensions.

In the first tract, page 15, there is a theory concerning shooting-stars, which, even if plausible in itself, should have been avoided, as contradictory to the spirit of the Conductors' promises. The theory is much too futile to meet the approbation of any scientific man, and when offered to the people, can serve only to mislead them.

On page 17 of the same tract, the author identifies oxygen with heat. He gives us to understand, that the match in the air-syringe is ignited by the oxygen, which is separated from the air by compression. Now, although the oxygen is *essential* to the ignition of the match, still it is not the *cause*. It is produced by the expression of the latent heat of the air.

In tract No. III, page 67, the same experiment is correctly explained.

The first paragraph of the same tract (No. III.) pretends to account for the blue color of the atmosphere, by reasons entirely at variance with the true theory of color. "The blue rays are most readily absorbed by the atmosphere, hence its blue appearance above and around us." The sensation of color is excited in us by reflected rays; and not

absorbed rays. The color of blue is produced by the reflection of the blue rays, while the rest are absorbed.

The treatises on Electricity are inadequate to teach the untaught, and to those who are versed in the subject they are valueless. On page 478, the allegation, that the theory of two electricities is now almost universally admitted, is untrue. Franklin's theory has not yielded a step to that of Du Faye, and something more than a sweeping assertion will be required, to make us relinquish the theory of a single fluid.

On the strength of the above assertion, the author says in the same paragraph, that he shall adopt the theory of two fluids in his treatise; that is, he shall use the terms *vitreous* and *resinous*, in his explanations, instead of *positive* and *negative*. On page 482, we find a phenomenon explained on the supposition of a single fluid, and the terms *positive* and *negative* made use of. Now, although this may be the more plausible and *easier* mode of explanation, still it should not be made use of here, as it is not in accordance with the "*almost universally received theory*." This is only one of the many cases of inconsistency. The terms are confounded throughout the whole treatise, and it could hardly be expected to be otherwise, in a collection of quotations.

On page 498, the explanation of the decomposition and recombination of the natural electricity is extremely involved. After this, it is further said, "that the same is evidently true, if we consider the theory of Franklin, already alluded to, as the more probable theory." This has the appearance of clashing a little with a previous assertion.

On page 507, is mentioned a "remarkable fact," which the author does not "recollect to have seen noticed in any treatise; that very many of the experiments with the electric light succeed better with the conductor than with the jar." We do not recollect to have seen many treatises where it is not mentioned. It is noticed in "Pinnock's Catechism on Electricity," in "The Library of Useful Knowledge," and in "Rees's Cyclopædia," whence a great part of the treatise is quoted. This being the fact, we cannot grant the author the honor of a discovery in this case.

Hoping that the people will not be injured by these few anomalies, we can recommend to them the greater part of the remaining tracts as interesting and instructive. The tract on Forest Trees is very well worth perusal; not so much

from any intrinsic merit, as from the importance of the subject. It would be out of place here to set forth the value of a good treatise on this hitherto neglected subject, so highly important to men of taste, and so appropriate to this country. Although many of these tracts are truly commendable, there are some which have so much the appearance of belonging to the class referrible to persons called book-makers, that one might be inclined to think they really had such an origin, if there were not, in general, reason to think better of the work and its conductors. But we do consider the electrical *farrago*, to which we have adverted, and some of the other treatises on philosophical subjects, as unworthy the name of "Scientific Tracts."

ART. VIII. — *A Natural History of the Globe, of Man, of Beasts, Birds, Fishes, Reptiles, Insects, and Plants.* From the Writings of BUFFON, CUVIER, LACEPÈDE, and other eminent Naturalists. Edited by JOHN WRIGHT, Member of the Zoölogical Society of London. A new Edition, with Improvements from Geoffrey, Griffith, Richardson, Lewis and Clark, Long, Wilson, and others. With Five Hundred Engravings. [Edited by Samuel G. Goodrich.] Boston. Gray & Bowen. 1831. 5 vols. 12mo.

THE addition of about three hundred pages of matter and many wood-cuts, with the comparative cheapness of the American edition, renders it an improvement of that by Mr. Wright; but in point of typographical execution and pictorial embellishment, it is manifestly inferior to the English work. In both, systematic arrangement and terms of science have been disregarded, from the idea that they are not important in a popular work, or that they are adverse to one in which "variety, the desire of keeping attention alive by facts calculated to excite astonishment and perhaps a higher feeling, and to yield innocent entertainment or valuable information," are the principal objects. We believe this to be a mistaken idea. Scientific names and a natural classification of animals are valuable aids to the memory. Upon the organization of animals, which furnishes the principles of their systematic arrangement, their habits so necessarily depend, that a knowledge of the one carries with it that of the other. It enables

us more correctly to appreciate the resemblances and diversities of animals, to associate them in groups according to their natural affinities, and to understand the relative rank of each one in the scale of created beings. In the very terms of science are stored up numerous valuable zoölogical facts; and, to use the words of Linnæus, "*Si nomina nescis, perit et cognitio rerum.*"

The want of a natural arrangement is most sensibly felt in that part of the work including the *invertebrated* animals, or those destitute of an internal bony skeleton. This great division of the animal kingdom contains an immense number of objects, interesting not only for their multifarious forms, and singular habits, but for their wonderful internal structure, the exact adaptation of their organs to the medium in which they are designed to live, and to the wants these organs are intended to supply. The minuteness of the object and the brevity of its existence do not lessen our curiosity; it in reality serves still more to excite our admiration and astonishment at the symmetry of form, the delicacy of organs, and the concentration of power and of vitality in such minute entities. To use the eloquent language of the author of the "*British Naturalist*," as quoted in this "*Natural History*," "*We are apt, because we cannot move from one part to another without labor, to associate interest with magnitude, — measure power with a line, and reckon wisdom by tables of chronology; but when the work is His, 'with whom a thousand years are as one day, and one day as a thousand years,' we find also that space is not an element of the wonderful in His works, or time of the wisdom with which they have been made.*" It is impossible to render the natural history of these numerous objects intelligible or instructive without arrangement; and hence we find in this work the utmost confusion, and total inattention to the natural relations of these animals. Thus the lobster and crab are associated with the amphibious reptiles, coming immediately after the tortoise, to which they have not the remotest affinity. Shell-fish, such as oysters, muscles, and clams, succeed these, and are followed by frogs, lizards, and serpents. The confusion increases in the last volume. Here the flea, a true insect, which undergoes a remarkable transformation in passing from its young to its adult state, which lives wholly by suction, is furnished with only six legs, and is covered with a polished

laminated coat, is placed immediately after spiders, animals that preserve throughout their lives the forms in which they appear at birth, which are predaceous in habit, are furnished with venomous fangs, move upon eight legs, and have a system of respiratory and nutritive organs upon an entirely different model from those of insects. The description of *aphides*, or plant-lice, is appended to that of the irritating vermin which inhabit some of the vertebrated animals, and which invade and occupy even the high places of the lords of creation. We are entirely at a loss to conceive what resemblance Buffon, Wright, or Goodrich could find between the common louse and an *aphis*, either in form, structure, or economy. It is evident that the popular name has misled the author of these chapters in this and other instances, such as bringing together the common bed-bug and the *millepede*, or, as it is sometimes called, the *sow-bug*. The latter is allied to the *centipede*, but is separated from it by the scorpion and the *Daphnia* (Monoculus), an animal nearly related to the *horse-shoe*. But it is unnecessary to point out other examples of the absolute disregard of order and affinity which prevails in the last volume; suffice it only to mention, that the leech, or blood-sucker, is associated with *centipedes* and insects, and the other red-blooded worms with *zoöphytes*, among which also is included the cuttle-fish, an animal closely related to the nautilus and argonaut.

The limits of this article will not permit us to point out many of the errors of this work; we shall confine ourselves, therefore, principally to those minor faults which ought not to have escaped the correction of a careful editor, and one acquainted with the subject, which is a matter of no small consequence. In the first volume, page 51, of the American edition (to the pages of which we shall refer), it is stated that "the mountains of Europe form *four* systems," for which read *six* systems. Page 112, "America is said to be one continued morass; a proof of the modern date of the country, of the small number of inhabitants, and still more of their want of industry;" which *on dit* of the French naturalist deserved at least a refutation by the Editor. On the same page we find *Palus Meotidis* for *Palus Mæotis*. Page 233, "The Latins, after the Greeks, have called the wild ass *angra*:" this misnomer is repeated below, and it appears in still another form in Vol. II., page 294, where, instead of

onager, we read *onagra*. Page 248, "In the Journal des Savans there is a description of worms found in the livers of sheep and oxen, as also in the German Ephemerides." (We presume that the only worms found in the latter must be book-worms.) "It has also been said that butterflies have been found in the livers of sheep"! In the excellent description of the hare (page 325), transferred without acknowledgment from Dr. Godman's work, for "a species of *œstrus* which lays *with* eggs," read, as in the original, "a species of *œstrus* which lays *its* eggs." Of the badger it is said (page 355), that "dogs easily overtake it when it is at any distance from its hole, and then, using all its strength and all its powers of resistance, it throws itself upon its back, and defends itself with desperate resolution. It has one single advantage over its assailants. The skin is so thick, and especially so loose, that the teeth of the dogs can make little impression on it, and the badger can turn himself round in it, so as to bite them in their tenderest parts." This *wonderful* feat of the badger very possibly suggested the phrase of *turning a cat-skin*.

On page 275 of the second volume, we have *Reuminants* for *Ruminants*, or rather ruminating quadrupeds.

In the third volume, page 43, Mr. Goodrich informs us that the figure of the bird of Washington "is copied from the engraving in Mr. Audubon's splendid work on American Ornithology." We are suspicious that the eagle in question is copied from the wood-cut in "Loudon's Magazine of Natural History."

In the commencement of the fifth volume it is stated, that "many insects are furnished with lungs and a heart like nobler animals; yet the caterpillar continues to live, though its heart and lungs, which is often the case, are entirely eaten away." Neither of these assertions is true: an insect has not lungs and a heart, like the vertebrated animals, reputed *nobler* by Buffon; nor can a caterpillar live when the vital organs, performing the vicarious office of lungs and heart, are consumed. The figure on the 63d page is not a locust, it is a *mantis*, of which no description is given in the text. The account of the venomous powers of the "great West Indian locust" is fabulous. Pollen, or the yellow dust of flowers, does not (as is related on page 128) furnish the material for bees-wax. It is now a well established fact that this substance is elabo-

rated by the digestive apparatus of bees from the nectar, honey, and other sweet vegetable productions which they swallow; and that, after undergoing the necessary changes, it transpires from the interior of the body, and is collected in flakes beneath the rings of the belly, in what are called the wax-pockets. Pollen is gathered and stored up by bees as food for their young; after being masticated and mixed with their saliva it forms the bee-bread, with which their grubs are nourished. In the first volume, page 117, "women are said to have fewer teeth than men!" It has also been said that men have fewer ribs than women; and "thereby hangs a tale." Some persons have had wit enough to ascertain by inspection and enumeration that this saying is not true, and hence has arisen a difficulty in regard to the deficient rib, which is effectually cleared up by a statement deserving a place in this veracious "*Natural History*." In the learned account of the creation of woman, as given by the Jewish Rabbins,* we are told that Adam was originally furnished with a tail, and that from this inferior appendage of his vertebral column woman was formed, thus being really "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh."

The wood-cuts in the American, as before said, are inferior to those of the English edition. The dogs are miserably executed, as are also many other animals. The grisly bear, an animal which has been under our notice in the living state for many months, could not be identified by the figure here given. A spirited and striking resemblance of it is executed in the work of Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Goodrich's figure of the rattle-snake is far less correct than that in the English work; it is represented as smooth, whereas every one who has seen this serpent, must have remarked the peculiar roughness of its imbricated scales. Mr. Wright's beautiful vignette of the child gazing with pleased wonder at a rattle-snake twined around the stump of a tree, with its head erect, and its tongue protruded in the act of emitting its menacing hiss, reminds us of a fact that occurred last summer in the vicinity of the Blue-Hills, the metropolis of the rattle-snakes of Massachusetts. A young child, at play near a wood-pile, espied a full grown rattle-snake; pleased with its circumvolutions and its rattle, it attempted to

* *Alexander's History of Women.* Vol. i. p. 28.

secure the reptile, which, while endeavouring to enter the wood-pile, was grasped by the eager child, and, notwithstanding its struggles, was held firmly by its tail. The shouts of the child soon brought to the door its mother, who, though alarmed at the dangerous sport, possessed sufficient courage to seize a stick and despatch the snake.

The English figures of the drone, queen, and working bees, though larger than life, are excellent; those of the American edition have no resemblance to bees nor to any other insect.

The American Editor has drawn freely from the works of Dr. Richardson, Mr. Wilson, and the Prince of Musignano. He has also added some interesting matter and figures from those works in which are described the animals in the London Zoölogical Gardens and Tower Menagerie. A few of the cuts are from original drawings made from living animals in Boston. All these are acknowledged in the Advertisement; but there is another source whence many important details have been extracted. It is the "American Natural History" of the late Dr. John D. Godman, a work truly American, of the highest authority, and replete with interesting and useful information. From the title of Dr. Godman's work it appears that he intended to publish a history of all the North-American animals; but disease and death prevented him from accomplishing a task for which he was preëminently fitted. The three volumes that were completed, will remain an honorable monument of his industry, zeal, and originality. These volumes embrace the natural history of the Indian race, of the quadrupeds, seals, sharks, and whales, or of those animals which, from nursing their young, are denominated *mammalia*. Dr. Godman was distinguished for his skill as an anatomist, and his eloquence as a lecturer; his natural history acquires much of its celebrity from these sources, as well as from his faithful and amiable delineations of the characters and habits of animals living under his own observation. That it contains nothing offensive to the modesty and delicacy of ingenuous youth, is a recommendation which will increase its value in the estimation of parents. While we hope that the copy-right may long remain inviolate, we trust that a new edition, in a more convenient and cheaper form may, ere long, be offered to the public. This gentleman's name does not appear in the list of authorities

on the title-page and in the Advertisement; and though it often occurs in the first and second volumes, yet occasionally it is omitted where his language has been employed. These instances, it is true, are rare; but, justice to the memory of a deceased naturalist, and patriotic respect to American talent, should have prevented any such omission. Besides his descriptions, many of Dr. Godman's plates also are transferred to these volumes.

The additions to American ornithology are selected by Mr. Goodrich almost entirely from Wilson's deservedly celebrated work. Of water-fowl, however, but few American species are described, and scarcely one figured, although to our sportsmen and epicures, these are by far the most interesting of our birds. An attempt at a classification of the birds is made in this work. The sections are denoted by German text in the English edition, but in the American by Roman letters, which, being of the same size as those of the names of the birds, do not so distinctly point out the divisions.

To the reptiles and fishes but very few additions are made; among these are to be included brief and unessential descriptions of three or four snakes and about as many fishes by Mr. Goodrich, and a collection of statements respecting the sea-serpent, "gathered partly from newspapers, and partly from an unpublished pamphlet on the subject." This forms an Appendix which terminates the fourth volume. The fifth and last volume, devoted to the insects or zoöphytes of Buffon, and to the physiology and terminology of plants, is a reprint of the English, and (one short paragraph only excepted) without addition, comment, or correction.

It is a matter of no small surprise to us, when abundant materials for a more complete history of our reptiles, fishes, testaceous and crustaceous shell-fish (or mollusca and crustacea), insects, and zoöphytes, existed in this country, that Mr. Goodrich should have left these departments in so meagre a state. Having mentioned the existence of such materials, we may be permitted to enumerate some of them. Those desirous of information upon these branches of American zoölogy are referred to the "Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," the "Philosophical Transactions" of Philadelphia and of New York, the "Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York," and the "Contributions of the Maclurean Lyceum of Philadelphia," be-

sides numerous papers published by Mr. Say in various works,* and by others in the scientific journals of our country. The reptiles are elucidated by Professor Green and Dr. Harlan, the latter of whom has enumerated and described a hundred and twenty-three native species. Mr. Le Sueur and Dr. Mitchell have paid particular attention to our fishes; for the descriptions of a hundred and forty-seven and figures of sixty species, which frequent the waters of New York, we are indebted to the industry of Dr. Mitchell. Mr. Le Sueur has also brought some of our mollusca and zoöphytes into notice; but much of our knowledge of these animals, and nearly all that we know of the North-American insects, is derived from the labors of Mr. Say.

After a careful examination of this augmented edition of "Buffon's Natural History," we must acknowledge that it falls far short of its pretensions. There is certainly much entertaining matter in it, and of the first two classes, mammalia and birds, a very considerable amount of information may be gleaned from it. As a book of mere amusement it cannot safely be entrusted to youth, in consequence of the indelicacy of some of its details, and it has no claims to rank as a scientific natural history.

We would not dismiss the work without a passing remark upon the botanical portion of it. This is evidently the production of a scientific and practical botanist. The first part gives a clear, condensed, and instructive account of the analogy of the science and of the anatomy and physiology of plants; the latter contains an explanation of the scientific terms and classification employed by the most distinguished botanists of the present day. The former may be read with pleasure and profit by any one, while the latter will be found a valuable summary for the botanical student.

* "Appendix to Keating's Narrative of Long's Expedition," "Western Quarterly Reporter," "Nicholson's Encyclopædia," "New Harmony Disseminator," "American Entomology," "American Conchology."

ART. IX. — *A Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada.* By THOMAS NUTTALL, A. M., F. L. S. *The Land Birds.* Cambridge. Hilliard & Brown. 1832. 12mo. pp. 683.

OF the different branches of Natural History, all of which are delightful and instructive, Ornithology is the most fascinating. The beauty of the form, colors, and structure of birds, their curious nests, often constructed with the greatest art and neatness, their eggs which they so patiently cherish, their affection for their young and mates, and above all, the music of their notes, have rendered them general favorites in every age.

Unlike some favorites, they are also friends; very few are injurious to man, and a great part of them are constantly employed in the destruction of insects,—the most formidable of all his animal enemies. It is, indeed, a matter of almost absolute certainty, that if the whole multitude of birds in any country were destroyed, in a few years not a single crop of any kind would be produced. Even the owls and the hawks, which the farmer is so apt to consider as good for nothing but to devour his poultry, perform the indispensable service of keeping in check the prolific tribes of field-mice and moles, which would otherwise destroy his orchards, his grass, and his grain.

Ornithology has been singularly fortunate in the illustrations which it has received from its many devoted admirers. In England, the choicest specimens of the truly descriptive engravings of Bewick are contained in his "*History of British Birds.*" In our own country, while the plates of Wilson's "*American Ornithology*" are surpassed by those of few works of the kind in Europe, his admirable descriptions are still unequalled, and are likely to remain so.

Another American citizen, Mr. Audubon, in his work entitled "*The Birds of America,*" &c.,* has presented to the

* "*The Birds of America*, engraved from Drawings made in the United States and their Territories. By John James Audubon, F. R. S. L. & E., &c." The plan of the work is given in the Prospectus as follows: "I. The size of the work is double Elephant Folio, the paper being of the finest quality. II. The Engravings are, in every instance, of the exact dimensions of the drawings, which, without any

world a long and splendid series of engravings, far the most perfect and magnificent which have ever been produced in any department of Natural History.

But while the study of Ornithology has become popular in the United States, the bulk and expense, as well as the want of arrangement, of all the works hitherto published on American birds form an almost insuperable obstacle in the way of many of our students. And although the invaluable Synopsis of Prince Charles Lucian Bonaparte, published in the "Annals of the New York Lyceum of Natural History," has in some measure removed this obstacle, still from its conciseness it is insufficient for those who cannot have recourse to the larger works of Wilson and Audubon. A book was wanted, which, containing a sufficiently extensive description of all our birds, arranged in systematic order, should yet be of such a size and price as to be generally accessible and convenient. It has been the purpose of Mr. Nuttall to prepare such a book, and we think that the work he has produced will prove acceptable both to the general reader and to the student. It is very neatly printed in a large and thick duodecimo, and is illustrated by many wood engravings, which with few exceptions are very good, while many of them are excellent. Besides an Introduction upon Birds in general, and a description

exception, represent the birds and other objects of their natural size. III. The plates are colored in the most careful manner from the original drawings."

Of these Plates, so far as they are published, the only copy in this vicinity, we believe, is that recently exhibited in the Boston Athenæum; which, according to the list of subscribers, was engaged by the Hon. T. H. Perkins for that Institution.

"The superiority of the original drawings, consists in the accuracy as to proportion and outline, and the variety and truth of the attitudes and positions of the figures, resulting from peculiar means discovered and employed by the author, and from his attentive examination of the objects portrayed during a long series of years. He has not contented himself with single profile views, but in very many instances has grouped his figures so as to represent the originals at their natural avocations, and has placed them on branches of trees decorated with foliage, blossoms, and fruits, or amidst plants of numerous species. Some are seen pursuing their prey through the air, searching for food among the leaves and herbage, sitting on their nests, or feeding their young, while others, of a different nature, swim, wade, or glide in or over their allotted element." *Prospectus appended to Audubon's Ornithological Biography.*

of each species in the manner of Wilson and Audubon, but commonly more concise, it contains at the head of the description of each species, the essential specific phrase, and at the end a more extended technical character. It contains all the land species of Wilson, Bonaparte, and Audubon now published, with the addition of a few Canadian birds not found in the United States, and of several new species discovered by the author.

ART. X. — *Encyclopædia Americana. A Popular Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, Literature, History, Politics, and Biography; brought down to the Present Time; including a Copious Collection of Original Articles in American Biography.* On the Basis of the Seventh Edition of the German Conversations Lexicon. Edited by FRANCIS LIEBER, assisted by E. WIGGLESWORTH, and T. G. BRADFORD. Philadelphia. Carey & Lea. 8vo.

IN estimating a work like this, regard should be had to the wants of the times. The question is not so much, whether the thing be excellent in itself, as whether it was needed. In an original work of instruction or of taste we look for intrinsic merit, and judge by the eternal laws of truth and beauty; but in a compilation the essential requisite is immediate utility, adaptation to present wants. Here then, of course, the standard of excellence will be more contingent and fluctuating, depending upon the changes of the times; here, the value must always depend on the demand.

Proceeding upon this ground we ask, Was a new Encyclopædia needed at the present time? And if so, for whom was it needed? It certainly was not needed for the learned, the student by profession, the man whose whole life is devoted to literary and scientific pursuits; the wants of this class were already abundantly supplied by such works as the "Encyclopædia Britannica," Rees's, Brewster's, and others of high authority. But there is another class of readers, — and it is in every community the largest class, — consisting of those whose ordinary pursuits are not of a literary character, the path of whose destiny lies not among the cultivated fields of science, and who, if they taste of knowledge at all, as they have no time to till for themselves, must have their food pre-

pared to their hands. Among readers of this description a want did exist, which had never before been satisfactorily provided for; these have long stood in need of some repository of general information more accessible and practical than the folios and quartos, more copious and interesting than the octavos, of former encyclopædists. This want, according to the principle above stated, is the test we should apply to any new work in this department of literary labor. We should expect such a work to be popular in its design and in its form, discursive rather than profound, correct but not minute, a dictionary of things rather than of opinions,—presenting in each department of science the outlines merely, and the most prominent facts without the details,—the results without the processes by which they were obtained,—having a large proportion of articles devoted to common things, and conveying information on all topics in the plainest and most concise manner. Such would be our demand. Now the work whose title stands at the head of this article, and of which eight volumes, comprising about two thirds of the whole, are already before the public, satisfies this demand, we think, in every particular; and we are glad to find that Dr. Lieber and his assistants have thus far succeeded so well in making their book what the title promised it should be, a “popular dictionary.” This constitutes in our opinion its highest merit. It is a popular work; it merits that title as well by the free space which it allows to popular subjects, as by the popular manner in which it handles those that are more abstruse. It is a popular work, and it is the only one of the kind that we have. Of Encyclopædias we had enough before; but this is a new thing; it interferes with none of its predecessors, and it fills a gap which it was important to have filled, and to fill which but one attempt worthy of notice had been made before. We allude to the Libraries of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge; but the American Encyclopædia excels these, we think, in very many particulars; it is more extensive in its design and more practical in its execution, to say nothing of the advantages of lexicographical arrangement.

Nor is its popular cast the only merit which distinguishes the American Encyclopædia; it is remarkable also for the variety of its articles, for the brevity and conciseness of its manner, and for the attention it gives to subjects which, not

belonging to any particular division, have hitherto found no place in works of this description. On scientific subjects it is inferior to many others; but in the fine arts it justly claims a superiority over all our English Encyclopædias, and in history and biography it excels every other work not exclusively devoted to these subjects. We like, too, its cheerful and animated tone, so different from the dull prosing style usual in such compilations; this gives it a new claim, and makes it, like the celebrated work of Bayle, not merely a useful dictionary, but an entertaining book. As the American Encyclopædia professes to be founded on the German "Conversations Lexicon," it becomes a question of some interest how far it agrees with its original; but in comparing the two, we must bear in mind the object which our compilers had in view. We must not expect to find all that is excellent in the German retained in the English; much that is interesting and appropriate there, would not be so here. Thus transcendental views and principles unintelligible to American readers have been judiciously avoided. In respect to such subjects Dr. Lieber might say with the Roman poet,

"Nullus in hac terrâ, recitem si carmina, cujus
Intellecturis auribus utar, adest."

We are aware that scientific men in Germany have found fault with some portions of the "Conversations Lexicon," on the score of inaccuracy. We recollect once hearing Professor Blumenbach say, that he lost all patience whenever he attempted to consult it on subjects connected with his own department. It was in a former edition of this work too, if we remember right, that a very ludicrous mistake was made by a certain manufacturer of articles, who, strangely enough, confounding the Greek word *roûs* with the French *nous*, described the subject of his article as addicted to a very *selfish* philosophy. These errors, however, are confined we believe to the earlier editions, and the charge of inaccuracy has never, to our knowledge, been preferred against the seventh, on which the American work is based. Nevertheless this work has its faults; and there is one, as we think, a trifling one to besure, in the very title-page. We know of no reason why Latin should have been introduced here, why it was not as well (as certainly it was more natural) to say American Encyclopædia, as to say "Encyclopædia Americana." In some

of the *critiques* on German authors there seems to be a little unfairness, not intentional, but arising from certain national prejudices, of which the Editor himself was unconscious. Perhaps we mistake the cause, but we are convinced of the fact. Thus the article on Kotzebue * appears to be written with a good moral aim, no doubt, but with an exclusive spirit that is very far from doing justice to that distinguished author, who, with all his faults, and his offences against moral rectitude, stands unrivalled, perhaps, in the comic drama of Germany.

On some topics we wish that an earlier edition of the "Conversations Lexicon" had been followed, rather than the seventh, whose tone on these topics is too dogmatical and contemptuous for a philosophic work. Occasionally the American Editor appears undecided whether to fall in with this tone, or to take an independent stand. In the article on Animal Magnetism, e. g. (a very satisfactory one in the earlier German) we observe, that after translating the ridicule which he found on this subject in the seventh edition of the original, he has added, of his own accord, a somewhat prolix statement of the phenomena of animal magnetism. Here is an inconsistency. First he tells us that there is nothing in the matter, and then describes phenomena, which, if true, prove incontestably that there is. This reminds us of a certain learned Doctor who wrote a learned book on some specimens of petrification, which he thought he had found in his garden, but which, he afterward discovered, were artificial, and had been deposited there by some wag who was acquainted with his pursuits. As the discovery was not made till the book was finished, the Doctor was unwilling to lose the credit and the profit of his labors; he therefore published the work, as if nothing had happened, and added a note at the end, in which the patient reader, after toiling through several hundred pages, was informed that the whole affair was a delusion. The author of the article in the American Encyclopædia, to which we allude, has acted less wisely; he has made his confession in the outset, and then told his story, which story, after such a confession, few will take the trouble

* On comparing this article with the corresponding one in the original we find no essential difference between them. We do not know what are the political sentiments of the German editor.

to read. It should have been omitted altogether, or given without the confession. We do not mention these things as detracting essentially from the value of the work, but with the hope that in the volumes yet to come, even such trifling inconsistencies will be avoided.

On the whole, placing it on the ground which we have assumed, that of general utility, we do not hesitate to give the American Encyclopædia our most hearty commendation as a repository of useful knowledge. It deserves a place in every village library and in every family. We have heard of a lady, "not very particular about her reading," who borrowed a copy of Johnson's Dictionary, and after reading it through, returned it, saying she had found it a very entertaining book. This is rather a singular commendation to bestow upon a dictionary; but it may be applied with perfect justice to the work before us; for though a dictionary, it is an entertaining book, and deserves not only to be frequently consulted, but attentively perused.

ART. XI. — *Memoir of the Life of Eli Whitney, Esq.* [In the American Journal of Science.] New Haven. January, 1832. pp. 54.

PROFESSOR SILLIMAN, the Editor of this "Journal," informs us, that "he is indebted exclusively to Professor Olmsted for this article." It has been proposed, we understand, to publish it by itself; an intention which we hope to see executed, as there are many in the northern part of the Union at least, who know little of Eli Whitney, and who feel the good effects of the invention of the Cotton Gin, without being aware that they owe them to the ingenuity of a native of Massachusetts. The names of Watt, Arkwright, and Fulton are familiar; that of Whitney should in like manner be suggested by the same association with the great sources of national wealth and happiness.

For several years after the close of the revolutionary war, as is well known, it was a problem of difficult solution with the statesmen of the day, to discover among the productions of an extensive but exhausted country, some article of export, which might do something towards the payment of the debts to foreign powers, incurred in the prosecution of the

contest. The invention of Whitney solved the problem, and opened to the country in general, and to the southern planters in particular, sources of wealth, surpassing the imagination of the most enthusiastic. In 1785, the export of cotton to Liverpool (and this was probably a great part of the whole export) consisted of five bags; in 1831, the whole product of the Southern States was, we believe, upwards of one million bales.

A stranger might be curious to inquire, what rewards were lavished by a grateful country on the ingenious or fortunate discoverer of an instrument of such extraordinary efficiency; what honors were rendered to him by his contemporaries, and in what regard and estimation his name has been held by their posterity. But he would feel a sensation of shame for his species, when he learned that the best part of the life of this eminent benefactor was wasted and his health impaired in attempts to secure from his invention the means of a livelihood; that he was obliged at last to look to other efforts of invention and industry for subsistence; that his claims were resisted and his character vilified during his life, by those who were deriving the most direct and extensive benefits from his invention; and that as yet his name has been rarely mentioned, and his history is unknown to thousands of his countrymen.

But there are other rewards of merit beside the accumulation of wealth, or the enjoyment of contemporary fame. The well founded consciousness of deserving both, and the certainty of receiving in full measure the arrears of gratitude and honor from future generations, are worth something to all, and much to the truly great and noble-minded.

The subject of this "Memoir" was a native of the county of Worcester, in Massachusetts, and a graduate of Yale College. In 1792, soon after his first degree was conferred, he went to the South as a teacher in the family of a gentleman in Georgia. While there his attention was drawn to a subject then of great interest, — a method of separating the fibre of the green seed-cotton from its seed, — which had hitherto been accomplished only by the slow and unprofitable method of hand-picking. For this purpose Whitney devised a machine, which proved perfectly effectual, and which is now known by the name of the Cotton Gin, in which the fibre is separated by means of cylinders with wire teeth.

His difficulties commenced, however, almost at the moment of his invention. Before he could secure his patent, his building was broken open, the machine carried off, and a number of similar ones in successful operation. Thirteen years, during which the right was secured to him by the patent, were spent in endeavouring to establish his claim to it, and defending himself against aggressions in the state of Georgia. The difficulties that attended this legal warfare may be illustrated by a single remark from one of his letters. "In one instance," says he, "I had great difficulty in proving that the machine *had been used in Georgia*, although at the same moment, there were three separate sets of this machinery in motion, within fifty yards of the building in which the Court sat, and all so near, that the rattling of the wheels was distinctly heard on the steps of the court-house."

In the year 1801, Mr. Whitney sold the right for the state of South Carolina to the government for the small sum of fifty thousand dollars. In the following year he made an arrangement with North Carolina for a tax of two shillings and sixpence on every saw* employed in ginning cotton in that state; and in 1803, he made a similar arrangement with the state of Tennessee.

Soon after this, the legislature of South Carolina, in consequence of the representations of interested individuals, suspended payment of the balance due Mr. Whitney (thirty thousand dollars), and instituted a suit against him and his partner, Mr. Miller, for the recovery of what had already been paid to them, requesting at the same time by message the coöperation of the states of Tennessee and North Carolina. The request was complied with by Tennessee; but the legislature of North Carolina, to their honor be it spoken, amid this general and iniquitous scene of persecution, calmly expressed their opinion, that "the contract ought to be fulfilled with punctuality and good faith."

South Carolina also retraced her steps, and at a succeeding session of the legislature, it was voted, "that the contract [with Miller and Whitney] be now fulfilled, as in their opinion it ought to be, according to the most strict justice and equity."

From these states, therefore, something was received. The whole amount, estimating the labor of one man at

* Some of the gins had forty saws.

twenty cents a day, being, as he calculated in 1812, something less than the value of the labor saved to the United States in *one hour* by his machines then in use. And of the sums thus received in the Carolinas, a large portion was expended in prosecuting his claim in the state, in which he had first made, and where he had first introduced his machine, and which had derived the most signal benefits from it. From this state — the state of Georgia — Whitney received nothing.

In 1798, Mr. Whitney, wearied with the labor and vexation attending the pursuit of the prospects, which were at first so promising, of realizing an independent property, from an invention which showered wealth every where but on the inventor, betook himself to another occupation, — the manufacture of arms. His progress in this undertaking, we do not propose to notice here, observing merely that it was successful, and afforded him a competent fortune. He died at New Haven, Connecticut, in January, 1825; and on his tomb is inscribed, "The Inventor of the Cotton Gin."

Such is a short abstract of a part of this "Memoir," the details of which are uncommonly interesting; and we repeat the hope that it may be published separately; that the name and history of a man, who was an honor to his native state and country, may be more generally known; that honor may be given where honor is due; and that the injustice of states or individuals may be held up as a fit subject for the only punishment that can reach them, — the general reprobation of mankind.

ART. XII. — *Commentaries on the Law of Bailments, with Illustrations from the Civil and the Foreign Law.* By JOSEPH STORY, LL. D., Dane Professor of Law in Harvard University. Cambridge. Hilliard & Brown. 1832. 8vo. pp. 450.

THE design of the author of these "Commentaries," as stated by him in his Preface, is "to present a systematical view of the whole of the common law in relation to Bailments, and to illustrate it by, and compare it throughout with, the civil law and the modern jurisprudence of continental Europe." The subject is one of considerable extent, and forms a very

important branch of the science of jurisprudence in every civilized community. Not only so, but it is one of frequent occurrence in the daily intercourse of business and the necessary differences and collisions that thence arise.

But however valuable a knowledge of this part of the great system of law may now be considered, from the widening and diversified relations of society, it is chiefly of modern growth in that country from which we have derived the common law as our inheritance. In early times in England, the whole science was narrow in its limits and contracted in its operations. Commercial adventures, whether foreign or domestic, were few and small. Manufactures and trade were confined to the supply of the actual wants of the population, and were in fact chiefly in the hands of foreigners. Money was scarce and valuable; credit was neither asked for nor understood; and the mode of transacting business, and transmitting funds by means of bills of exchange, was a mysterious affair, and had its origin in another quarter.

At this time the feudal system prevailed in its full vigor. The country was chiefly agricultural. Hence the negotiations and the suits at law that were most common were those relating to the transfer of real estate. The nobility and the clergy were the great landholders, and those who held under them had but very limited rights, and were but little above the present serfs of Russia, either in property or privileges. All matters of trade were looked upon with contempt, and were managed principally by the despised Jew, who weighed out his gains as a set-off and consolation for the insult and indignity that were his constant portion, and only parted with his treasure to escape torture or death. It was not the age of merchants sitting in kings' palaces, lending millions of money to potentates and powers, taking empires in mortgage, and controlling the question of war and peace.

As commerce increased in extent and value, this class gained strength and power, and new rights and obligations sprung up. Commercial law took root and spread wide, and adapted itself to the new and increasing demands of a business community. The law of Bailments became an important branch of commercial jurisprudence. It was not native in England. Many, nay most of its principal and beneficial provisions were derived from the Roman Code without acknowledgment. For it has been fashionable with the

English writers, from an early period to the present time, to decry the Roman Code as full of arbitrary provisions, and as deriving its authority from the will of the Emperor. Hence much of the law of Bailments has been resolved into the *custom of the realm*, through the influence of a narrow spirit that would not confess the true origin of that law. Indeed, in this department of jurisprudence, as well as in insurance and maritime law generally, much that is excellent and equitable has been *silently* incorporated into the body of the common law from foreign sources.

The earliest treatise upon the law of Bailments in England is contained in Bracton's celebrated work *De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliæ*, written in the reign of Henry the Third. A few, very few cases are also found scattered through the volumes of the old common law Reports. But thus far there was nothing like a systematic arrangement of the law; all was imperfect and confused. The points that had been decided were not sufficiently numerous to form the basis of a system by an induction of particular cases. But what is generally gained in this respect by time and opportunity was executed and brought to a good degree of symmetry by the single effort of a most learned and able Judge. Lord Holt, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench in the reign of Queen Anne, in the great case of *Coggs v. Bernard*,* gave order and arrangement to the law on this subject. He struck out, as has been forcibly said, at a single heat, the whole of the law of Bailments. This is, indeed, rather exaggerated praise; though it must be confessed that what he accomplished was highly praiseworthy and remarkable for a common lawyer, although it was a mere exposition of the sound doctrine of the civil law on the same subject that had been discussed and decided ages before. It was, however, a bold, happy, and successful effort. Blackstone in his "Commentaries" devotes but a few pages to the subject, and fails to treat it according to its merit and importance.

The only distinct treatise on Bailments, with which we are acquainted from an English author, is the work of Sir William Jones, that learned and upright jurist, that most distinguished scholar. The first edition of this work was published, we believe, in 1781, and immediately obtained a high and de-

* 2 Lord Raymond's Reports, p. 909, &c.

served celebrity. It is a systematic and lucid arrangement of the law of Bailments, written in a pure style and abounding in learning. It is deeply imbued with the principles and spirit of the civil law from which it is chiefly drawn, and with which he was desirous the common law should be in conformity. But this circumstance, as Judge Story well remarks, "has sometimes appeared to mislead his judgment, and has sometimes disturbed the clearness of his reasoning." And besides, it is added, the work is a mere outline.

In this country the subject has been briefly touched upon in about forty pages, by Chancellor Kent, in his usual felicitous manner, in his very valuable Commentaries. But a new and more full treatise was required by the state of the law, and one which should embrace in a methodical manner the whole law of Bailments, with the later decisions of the Courts. And some estimate may be made of the growth of this branch of jurisprudence from the fact, that Sir William Jones cites only about a score of cases from the common law Reports, they being nearly, if not quite, all that were adjudged up to the time when he wrote; while Judge Story cites somewhat over four hundred and sixty cases, from the English and American decisions, besides much more numerous authorities from the works of foreign jurists.

In the work before us Judge Story first speaks of the importance of this branch of law as lying at the foundation of many commercial contracts. He defines a bailment to be, "A delivery of a thing in trust for some special object or purpose, and upon a contract express or implied, to conform to the object or purpose of the trust." (Page 2.)

Bailments, it is added, are of three kinds, viz. 1. Those in which the trust is for the benefit of the bailor; as *deposits* and *mandates*. 2. Where the trust is for the benefit of the bailee; as *gratuitous loans for use*; and 3. Where the trust is for the benefit of both parties; as pledges or pawns, and hiring and letting to hire. The author then proceeds in the remainder of the first chapter to discuss at length the obligations of the bailee in the different sorts of bailments, and the different degrees of diligence required of him under each class of bailments.

The second chapter treats of *Deposits*. A Deposit is defined to be "a naked bailment of goods to be kept for the bailor without reward, and to be returned when he shall

require it." Here the identical article delivered is to be returned; but in a *mutuum*, which is also a species of deposit, where the article is consumed in the use, as corn, wine, &c., a like article of equal quality is to be returned. The whole law on the subject of this chapter is stated at length.

The Third Chapter is upon *Mandates*, that is, "the bailment of personal property in regard to which the bailee engages to do some act without reward;" or in the language of Chancellor Kent, it is "when one undertakes without recompense to do some act for another in respect to the thing bailed." In a *deposit* the principal object of the parties is the *custody* of the thing; in a *mandate* the principal object is *labor* and *services* to be performed by the bailee about the article delivered.

The Fourth Chapter discusses the law of *Gratuitous Loans*. This is defined to be "a bailment or loan of an article for a certain time, to be used by the borrower without paying for it."

The Fifth Chapter is upon *Pawns* or *Pledges*. The best definition of this branch of the subject is the one given by the author, viz. that it is "a bailment of personal property, as security for some debt or engagement."

The last Chapter, and much the longest and most important, treats of *Contracts of Hire*. Under this general head are embraced, 1. Hire of things. 2. Hire of labor and services. 3. Hire of custody; as in the cases of agisters of cattle, warehouse-men, wharfingers, factors, and bailiffs. 4. Carriage of goods. 5. An enumeration of excepted cases from the common doctrine of hire, which are embraced in, 6. Postmasters. 7. Inn-keepers. 8. Common-carriers by water and by land. 9. Carriers of passengers; as in stage-coaches, steam-boats, and passenger-ships. 10. Special or quasi bailees for hire, relating to the possession of property by captors, revenue officers, prize-agents, officers of courts, and salvors.

Under each head of his work the author discusses fully the rights and obligations of the respective parties; their duties and responsibilities as derived from the implied contract, and how far they may be modified in effect and extent by express agreement; the degree of diligence required of the bailee, the various remedies by action, the burden of proof, &c. He has embraced the whole of the common law

of bailments in the most complete and methodical manner, and has shed a bright light over the entire subject. Nor is this all. He has embodied in his work a luminous commentary on the civil law in relation to the doctrine of Bailments, and on the derivative codes of France, Germany, Spain, and Scotland. He has pointed out how far the common law and the civil law differ, the greater extent and refinement of the latter, its nice speculations, and its more diversified aspects. He has bestowed upon the treatise of Sir William Jones the high praise it merits, and has carefully corrected the errors into which that learned jurist was betrayed by an overweening love of Justinian's Code. He has commented with ability upon the doubtful and anomalous adjudications of the common law, and assigned his reasons with precision and force.

In regard to arrangement, and clear and full conception of the law of Bailments, Judge Story's "Commentaries" are of the highest value. They are also written in a simple and unpretending but pure style. They are a happy illustration of the union he recommends of "the elaborate, theoretical fulness and accuracy, and the ascending to the elementary principles of the science," which characterize the works of foreign jurists, and what are called the *practical* treatises of the common law, "which, with few exceptions, contain little more than a collection of the principles laid down in the adjudged cases, with scarcely an attempt to illustrate them by any general reasoning, or even to follow them out into collateral consequences." It is in this way only that legal commentaries, by combining the two modes, can be rendered interesting to the general scholar and man of literary taste, out of the walks of the profession. The dry and somewhat technical features of the common law would thus be divested of some of their terrors, and philosophy would enlarge its boundaries and its power. The very valuable Commentaries of Chancellor Kent, on American law, form, in like manner, an apt illustration of the advantages of the union of which we have spoken; and the fulness of time is come when we should set an example to our English brethren in this respect, which they may at no distant day be inclined to follow, as they are already silently following us by copying our improvements in the code of criminal law.

The "Commentaries," of which we have given a slight notice, are the *first fruits* of the Dane Professorship of law in Harvard University. With such first fruits we look forward with pleasure to those subsequent and more important treatises, especially on national and constitutional law, that are required by the venerable and learned founder from those who shall fill the office of Professor. No one is more competent to the whole duty than the present incumbent, whose entire professional career has been full of assiduous and enlightened labors. American jurisprudence is largely indebted to him for its healthful and vigorous growth, and looks to him for future and extensive benefits.

The present volume has but little to do with local law. It is on the contrary upon a subject of almost universal extent and obligation, and will therefore speedily pass into general circulation. It will be of equal value and of almost equal authority in every part of the Union. Besides, it is a *full treatise*, and one that was much needed, particularly by the younger members of the profession, and extends to them in some good degree the benefits enjoyed by the students at the Law School of the University under the more immediate instruction of the author.

We will quote in conclusion the apposite closing remarks of our author, briefly showing his estimate of the importance of a knowledge of the civil code to the American jurist.

"These 'Commentaries upon the Law of Bailments' are now brought to a conclusion. Upon a review of the whole subject it will at once occur to the reader, what a great variety of topics, discussed in the civil and foreign law, remains wholly unsettled in the common law. He will also be struck with the many ingenious and subtle distinctions, singular cases, refined speculations, and theoretical inquiries, to which the free habits of the civilians conduct them in the course of their reasoning. Let it be remembered, however, that if some of these distinctions and speculations and inquiries seem remote from the practical doctrines of the common law, they may yet be of great utility in the investigation and illustration of elementary principles. They employed the genius and exhausted the learning of many of the greatest jurists of all antiquity; and were thought worthy of being embodied in the texts of Justinian's immortal Codes. In modern times the noblest minds have felt a life of laborious diligence well rewarded by gathering together illustrative commentaries in aid of these texts. What, indeed, was juridical

wisdom in the best days of imperial Rome ; what is yet deemed the highest juridical wisdom in the most enlightened and polished nations of continental Europe ; ought not to be, and cannot be, matter of indifference to any, who study the law, not as a mere system of arbitrary rules, but as a rational science. The common law has silently borrowed many of its best principles and expositions of the law of contracts, and especially of commercial contracts, from the Continental jurisprudence. To America may yet be reserved the honor of still further improving it, by a more intimate blending of the various lights of each system in her own administration of civil justice." pp. 393, 394.

ART. XIII. — *A Charge to the Grand Jury of the County of Suffolk for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the opening of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston, on the First Monday of December A. D. 1831.* By PETER OXENBRIDGE THACHER, Judge of that Court. Boston. S. N. Dickinson. 1832. 8vo. pp. 20.

THE Municipal Court, over which Judge Thacher has for several years presided, has original jurisdiction, concurrent with the Supreme Judicial Court, of all crimes not capital, arising within the county of Suffolk. It was created in 1799, in order to meet the wants of a metropolis and sea-port, and to advance the means in criminal cases of obtaining right and justice promptly and without delay.

The Charge before us was delivered to the Grand Jury at the opening of the Court in December last. It reminds us of those beautiful discourses delivered by Sir William Jones to the grand juries of Calcutta. It embraces a brief and succinct view of the duties of jurors in the administration of justice, appropriate remarks on punishments, and a pretty full consideration of the law relative to the preservation of the public peace. This last is a topic particularly fit to be laid before the grand jury, and one in which all the well-intentioned part of the community ought to feel a deep interest. We have here, indeed, none of those exciting causes which occasion such disorder and outrage in that land from which are derived our language and our laws. Neither have we an uninformed populace, ever ready to be stirred up to mutiny. With us there is knowledge, and equality, and an open field

for talent and industry, with an attendant persuasion, that the law is the great guaranty of all that is possessed, and that its sovereignty, "crowning good, repressing ill," must in no way be impaired. This enlightened and pervading public opinion is a stronger conservator of the peace than the whole posse of horse-guards and special constables, which the police of London can call forth. Yet it would be as unsafe to rely upon this alone against domestic commotion, as carelessly to depend upon the broad Atlantic for our defence against danger from abroad. The riot at Providence last September tells us loudly, that the mob has its power with us, and that the agency of an efficient police is needed to restrain it.

Judge Thacher has clearly developed the authority of the civil officer in calling out all good citizens to render aid in the execution of the laws. "His power is proportioned to the exigence of the case. The force to be applied is to be regulated by his discretion, and whatever force used by him can be shown to be necessary for the restoration of the peace, will be justified by the occasion." This is a power derived from the common law; and is not unlike, in its character and extent, that entrusted in pressing times to the Roman consul, when he was bidden to see that the state came to no harm. The sufficiency of this power Sir William Jones has established in his short tract, entitled "*The Legal Mode of Suppressing Riots*," suggested, as he informs us, by the fearful commotions of 1780, when the Parliament itself was beset by an infuriate mob, the courts of Westminster Hall interrupted in full Term, the prisons broken open, the houses of the first magistrates given to pillage and flames, and the streets made to flow with the wasted contents of breweries and distilleries, — the whole presenting a picture very like to that of Rome in one of her worst days of anarchy, "*urbem sine legibus, sine judiciis, sine jure, sine fide, relictam direptioni et incendiis.*"

Judge Thacher's "*Charge*" contains reflections, principles, and facts, interesting to all. We wish to see a more general concern felt for what pertains to the law; and we look to the publications of tracts of this character, as likely, in no small degree, to produce this concern. In this age of lyceums and lectures, we wonder that no means are taken to extend a knowledge of the first principles and elements of

those laws, which are the guardians of the lives and property of us all, and which, with a just severity, suppose no man ignorant of their provisions. The Roman boys, so Cicero tells us, were obliged to learn the Twelve Tables by heart ; and it was a similar feature in the Code of Minos, which recommended it to the admiration of Plato. An act was passed in the early legislation of Pennsylvania, " for teaching the laws in the schools." We know nothing of the consequences of this enactment ; but we greatly respect its spirit. The law is a science which can be made in a degree interesting to all. The elements of natural, international, and constitutional law, and the general doctrines which govern property, real and personal, contracts, sales, and particularly the administration of criminal justice, can be displayed in a view as instructive and entertaining, as any of the discourses now so common on the principles of science and philosophy. To those, and we fear the number is not small, who have an instinctive dread of the law, as a realm where darkness ever dwells and hope never comes, such a view would be especially profitable. It would show, if correctly displayed, the variety of circumstances and interests over which the law presides ; the conflicts of rights which it settles, the security to property and life which it confirms. The reasonable citizen would admire the immensity of the system, and see in its faults only what is incident to every thing human. He would have a wider view of his duties to government, and be able more readily and advantageously to control his property. He would be more firm and less petulant in the assertion of his rights, when he saw the ground upon which they rested ; and for the same reason, he would be more regardful of the rights of others. If such a knowledge could be generally diffused, contentious suits, in Lord Bacon's phrase, would be spewed out of the court-room, and the wise use and application of the law be made easy to the Judges.

ART. XIV. — *A Discourse delivered before the Boston Mercantile Association, and Others assembled on their Invitation, on Tuesday Evening, February 7, 1832.* By WILLIAM SULLIVAN. Boston. Carter & Hendee. 1832. 8vo. pp. 36.

THE Society before which this "Discourse" was delivered was formed several years ago, and is composed principally of merchants, and of young men who are preparing for trade. The society has in view the mutual improvement of its members by means of lectures and a library, and also the elevation of the mercantile character, by inculcating the importance of a knowledge of the principles of business and their application to practice, by giving countenance and protection to deserving youth, and sustaining those of their number who, through the uncertainty of trade, or the conduct of others, have met with a reverse of fortune, and have preserved an untarnished name.

It is the design of Mr. Sullivan in this "Discourse" to give "a familiar application of well-known truths to the society and to its purposes." It is not, as it was not intended to be, an elaborate performance; but it presents wholesome views of a practical nature, and forcibly inculcates upon the young the importance of good conduct and pure morals, not only for the benefit of the example to others, but also as it regards the individual himself, and his prospects of immediate and future happiness.

ART. XV. — *Delectus Sententiarum Græcarum, ad usum Tironum accommodatus; cum Notulis et Lexico.* Editio Americana Tertia Prioribus Emendatio. Boston. Hiliard, Gray, Little, & Wilkins. 1832. 12mo. pp. 103.

THIS little volume we have always thought well adapted for the youngest classes in Greek. We are glad to see, by this new edition, that it retains a place in the public favor. It is neatly and correctly printed, and will be found a useful and easy introduction to the study of Greek. It has been too well, and too long known, to need further specification from us.

ART. XVI. — *German and English Phrases and Dialogues, for the Use of Students in the German Language.* Collected by FRANCIS GRAETER. Boston. Hilliard, Gray, Little, & Wilkins. 1831. 12mo. pp. 216.

A PHRASE-BOOK, containing the most familiar and idiomatic expressions and terms used in conversation, is, next to a dictionary and a grammar, the most important part of the apparatus required for the acquisition of a foreign language. Students of the German language will find in Mr. Graeter's book a copious and very judicious collection of terms and modes of expression, which from their constant occurrence in books, as well as in daily conversation, and from their idiomatic structure and complexion, leave the learner most frequently at a loss for an explanation which even the most copious dictionary will not always, or at least not readily, supply. Mr. Graeter has taken most of the materials for his book from Perrin's "English and German Dialogues," and Lloyd's "Collection of Idioms"; or rather he has composed them anew, sifting every part, and augmenting and improving the whole from his own judgment and experience in teaching.

The first part consists of exercises on the elements of grammar; the second contains familiar dialogues on various subjects; the third is a collection of English idioms with a German translation. Some examples showing the position of the verb, and a few forms of letters and notes, are added. Among the Dialogues, that on the study of languages, and of the German language in particular, contains many excellent, original, and practical suggestions.

We cordially approve the book, and recommend it to schools and colleges, as well as to those who may wish to study the language without the aid of an instructor.

ART. XVII. — *The American School Geography, embracing a General View of Mathematical, Physical, and Civil Geography; adapted to the Capacities of Children. With an Atlas.* By BARNUM FIELD, A. M. Boston. William Hyde. 1831. 12mo. pp. 152.

WE find in the Preface of this "Geography" the following remarks: "To describe as many surfaces and climates

as we have States and Territories in our country, with the like exactness on other unimportant matters, will tend but little to elevate the mind. This exactness we often find required of the learner, as it regards characteristics and localities of some of the smallest places, not only in our own country, but of those in foreign countries. There can be but little advantage to the mind in the exercise of acquiring such knowledge, while the information itself is as unimportant as the mineralogy of the frigid zone."

To say nothing of the style of this, and other portions of the Preface, we have an objection to the observations here quoted. Perhaps it is the most difficult thing in early education to concentrate the wandering attention of the yet undisciplined pupil upon the studies immediately before him; but nothing is of more essential advantage in this respect than the habit of uniform exactness in the minutiae of each individual performance. All knowledge, too, is valuable; and the exemplification contained in the last sentence of the above extract is uncalled for and misplaced. For whatever the author may think of the "mineralogy of the frigid zone," no philosophical man would speak of information on such a subject as unimportant.

We have examined this "Geography" carefully, but cannot perceive the justice of its claims to preëminence. It does not, of course, pretend to originality. The changes in arrangement are not improvements, and the changes in expression are frequently for the worse. The language is often loose and inaccurate, and the definitions sometimes incorrect. For instance,

"GOVERNMENT. There are three principal kinds of government — Monarchy, Aristocracy, and Democracy. All governments partake in some degree of these three elementary systems." p. 20.

What is the monarchical element in a democracy? What is the democratical element in an absolute monarchy? Again,

"CHRISTIANITY is the worship of the true God, and is contained in the Scriptures." p. 21.

Christianity, considered as a system of doctrines and precepts, is contained in the Scriptures, but, considered as the actual worship of God, cannot be.

We have, on page 10, a wood-cut, of which fortunately for our comprehension, the following explanation is given.

"This picture embraces some of the most prominent natural divisions and noted animals of the world, and also vessels sailing upon the ocean." In the centre of this picture stands what we take to be an ostrich. Around him is a circle the diameter of which is about a tenth part of the diameter of the picture, which represents a sandy desert. At some distance from this formidable personage, an elephant is seen groping his way in the darkness, about fifty miles shorter than the ostrich. The lordly lion has lost his tail beneath an ink-blot. A whale, about half as large as the ostrich, extending through ten degrees of latitude, appears to be sneaking off, into an unfathomable abyss of ink.

The Atlas is very deficient. It can be of little use to beginners, and of none to proficients.

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- ART. XVIII. — 1. *A View of the United States, for the Use of Schools and Families.* By the Rev. HOSEA HILDRETH, Author of Books for "New-Hampshire and Massachusetts Children." Second edition. Boston. Carter, Hendee, & Babcock. 1831. 12mo. pp. 166.
2. *An Abridged History of the United States of America. For the Use of Schools. Intended as a Sequel to Hildreth's View of the United States.* Boston. Carter, Hendee, & Babcock. 1831. 12mo. pp. 248.

THIS "View of the United States," and the preceding little books mentioned in its title-page, without the commonly received arrangement of systems of geography, are suited to convey much instruction in an engaging manner. The "View" is a mixture of history and geography, bearing some resemblance to a book of travels; and as a school-book is somewhat original, and must, we think, be very useful.

The "Abridged History" is executed with remarkable success; it having been the author's "aim to be plain, brief, and accurate; and to trace the general course of events with such clearness of arrangement and sprightliness of style as a small abridgment would allow." No work, we believe, upon this subject, and in the same compass, is written in a style at once so pleasing and so level to the comprehension of youth, and contains the same amount of historical information so well selected, arranged, and condensed.

NOTE I. *Article on Sebastian Cabot.*— There is one further fact, fully proved by the author of the "Memoir," that should have been mentioned in the review of the work, and that is, that Sebastian Cabot was a native of England. Richard Eden in his *Decades of the New World*, an old work of high authority, from which Hakluyt, we are told, borrowed largely without acknowledgment, states expressly, that *Sebastian Cabot was born in England, and at the age of four years was carried by his father to Venice, and afterward returned with him to England*; which circumstance gave rise to the erroneous statements made by many writers that he was born in Venice. It may be added, that Eden was personally acquainted with Sebastian, and derived the information from him.

II. In our remarks upon Leverett's Juvenal and Persius, we said that the text of his Juvenal is taken from a recent edition of Ruperti. The text of Persius is that of Koenig. The edition of Ruperti and Koenig, which furnished the text of Mr. Leverett's Juvenal and Persius, was printed at Glasgow, in 1825. *Impensis Ricardi Priestley, Londini.* Editors of the ancient Classics should apprise the public of facts of this kind, which are of some importance, and which cost nothing to those who furnish or those who purchase the works.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

DANTE. — The following account of the earliest editions of Dante is occasioned by the accession of a rare copy of his *Commedia* to the Library of Harvard College.

FIRST COMMENTARY ON DANTE. — SPIRA'S EDITION OF BENVENUTO DA IMOLA. The first commentary upon the *Commedia* of Dante is said to have been that undertaken by his sons, Pietro and Giacomo, in the year 1334, thirteen years after the death of the poet. In 1350, Visconti, Archbishop of Milan, appointed a body of six learned men, two philosophers, two theologians, and two Florentine literati, to compile a commentary upon Dante; a work which probably was executed, but which never was published. In the year 1373, the Republic of Florence elected Giovanni Boccaccio to read and explain to his countrymen the *Divina Commedia*. He lectured on the poem in the church of St. Stephen, but having survived his election less than two years, he extended his expositions no further than the 17th Canto of the *Inferno*. This commentary was for the first time printed at Naples, but dated Florence, 1724. The first complete body of Notes written upon Dante, therefore, was that of Benvenuto de' Rambaldi da Imola, who having, soon after the death of Boccaccio, been appointed to lecture upon the *Divina Commedia* in Bologna, after ten years of incessant labor, produced finally, in 1385, a complete commentary on Dante, full of historical anecdotes, and distinguished for that learning, which the author had acquired in the course of a long life. This comment, written in Latin, was first published by Ludovico Antonio Muratori, in the first volume of his *Antiquitates Italicae Medii Ævi*, in 1738. There existed, however, an Italian translation of it, made by an anonymous writer, and printed at Venice in 1477; five years after the first edition of the poem, which was published at Foligno, in 1472, by John Numeister, with the following title: "La Commedia di Dante Alighieri, nella quale tracta di pene et punizioni de vicii et demeriti, et premii delle virtudi." The Italian translation of the commentary of Benvenuto da Imola of 1477, was printed by Vandelin, brother of John, da Spira, the two German typographers, who in 1469 established the first press in Venice. It is the third edition of Dante in the order of time, and has become so rare as not to be found in many public libraries, even of Italy. A copy of this truly curious work has been lately presented by O. Rich, Esq., of London, to the Library of Harvard University. It is in an excellent state of preservation, and one of the few perfect copies, probably, now extant. It fully corresponds to the description given of it by Haym. It is a folio volume of three hundred and seventy-two leaves, printed in two columns, in gothic letters. It is preceded by

the life of Dante, written by Boccaccio, which occupies the first fifteen leaves, which, according to Fournier, are wanting in most copies; and it is followed by a sonnet in praise of the poet by the same author. It is without capital letters, which were generally left to be painted, or, as it was then termed, *illuminated*; and it has no title-page. The book closes with the following sonnet descriptive of the edition.

- "F inita e lopera delinclito e divo
dante alleghieri fiorentin poeta
la cui anima sancta alberga lieta
nel ciel seren ove sempre il fia vivo
D imola benvenuto mai sia privo
deterna fama che sua mansueta
lyra opoero comentando il poeta
per cui il texto a noi e intellectivo
C hristoval Berandi pisaurense detti
opera e facto indegno correctore
per quanto intese di quella i subietti
D e spiera vendelin fu il stampatore
del mille quattro cento e settantasetti
correvan gli anni del nostro Signore."

At the top of the 16th page is found the following *Rubric*: "La Commedia di Dante allighieri di Firenze, nella quale tracta di pene et punimenti de vitii et demeriti, et premii et delle virtudi."

This edition, so much celebrated by all bibliographers, is generally known as "the Divina Commedia of Dante with the comment of Benvenuto da Imola, by Vandelin da Spira, Venice, 1477, fol.; *édition rare et recherchée*." (Vide *Haym*, *Brunet*, *Fournier*, and *Duclos* and *Cail-leau*.)

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAIC AND PROVINCIAL WORDS, OR A SUPPLEMENT TO THE DICTIONARIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, particularly those of DR. JOHNSON and DR. WEBSTER, containing, 1. A Large Collection of Words, occurring in *early* English Authors of reputation, not to be found in the Dictionaries of Dr. Johnson and Dr. Webster, with Authorities and Illustrations; 2. Additional Illustrations of some Words, which are found in those Dictionaries; 3. A Large Collection of Words still used in many Parts of England, though not admitted into the Dictionaries,—relics of the old Language of the English Nation, with ample Illustrations; 4. An Introductory Essay on the Origin and History of the English Language. By the late Rev. JONATHAN BOUCHER, A. M. and F. S. A., Vicar of Epsom, in the County of Surrey. To be edited by the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F. S. A.

Mr. Boucher, whose work as above described is proposed to be published, was a native of that part of England, where exist more remains of the language anciently spoken by all classes of persons, than in parts where a refinement, or a supposed refinement, has extended itself. He was a good classical scholar; and had an extensive acquaintance with the languages spoken by ruder nations, whence springs so much of our own.

The Dictionary of Dr. Johnson was, when Boucher was preparing his work, the only English Dictionary which professed to exhibit the wealth of the English tongue. Mr. Boucher saw the value of that Dictionary, as "a Dictionary of the Language, as spoken and written by the best speakers, and best modern writers." But he saw too that it wanted many words, which were as fairly entitled to the appellation of English, as any of those to which Dr. Johnson had done such ample justice; and these words it was his object to collect and illustrate.

When Mr. Boucher's work was advancing to maturity, he issued proposals for printing by subscription, in two volumes, 4to., *Lingua Anglicana Veleris Thesaurus*, or a Glossary of the Ancient English Language. A Specimen of the Work was printed in 1807, under the care of Sir Frederick Morton Eden, a friend of Mr. Boucher, and a contributor to his stores: this consists only of the letter A. The value of this tract has long been known to all, who are curiously inquiring into the history and structure of our language, or into the manners and customs of the English nation; and they concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Todd, in the Preface to his edition of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, that it abundantly, as well as most learnedly shows, how much remains to be done, in order to have a perfect view of the English language.

The proprietors of the English edition of Dr. Webster's Dictionary entered into a negotiation for the purchase of the MS., designing that it should appear in the same form as that Dictionary, and to serve as a Supplement to it, and also, as was the intention of the author, as a Supplement to the Dictionary of Dr. Johnson. This negotiation has been satisfactorily concluded, and they now announce the intention of publishing the work in Paris, the first of which, it is proposed, shall appear on the first day of February, 1832.

THE LONDON CATALOGUE OF BOOKS, with their sizes and prices and publishers. Containing the books published in London, and those altered in size or price, from the year 1810 to 1831. This is pronounced, in the London *Athenæum*, to be a work of more value than its name might lead the reader to believe. It contains a great deal of information, in a condensed form, which no one has before seen fit to collect, for which LITERARY MEN in particular are constantly at a loss.

NEW BOOKS.—By a paper recently issued in London, containing lists of New Books and principal Engravings in that city, during the past year, it appears that the number of New Books is about 1100, exclusive of new editions, pamphlets or periodicals, being fifty less than in the year 1830.

RAMMOHUN ROY.—The following works are expected from this distinguished Asiatic, as announced in Bent's Literary Gazette for January. AN ESSAY ON THE RIGHTS OF HINDOOS OVER ANCESTRAL PROPERTY, according to the Laws of Bengal.—REMARKS ON EAST INDIA AFFAIRS; with a Dissertation on the Ancient Boundaries of India, its Civil and Religious Divisions, and Suggestions for the future Government of the Country.

LIST OF BOOKS PUBLISHED AND IN PRESS,
FOR MARCH, 1832.

Carey & Lea, Philadelphia.

- A Manual of Medical Jurisprudence, by Michael Ryan, M. D. 8vo.
American Quarterly Review for March, 1832.
A Treatise on Hydrostatics and Pneumatics, by Rev. Dionysius Lardner,
LL. D. 12mo.
Larrey's Surgical Memoirs, Translated from the French. By John C. Mer-
cer. 8vo.

J. & J. Harper, New York.

- The Polish Chiefs, an Historical Novel. 2 vols. 12mo.
Memoirs of the Empress Josephine. 18mo.
The Court and Camp of Bonaparte. 18mo.
Eugene Aram. By the Author of "Pelham," &c. 2 vols. 12mo.

Protestant Episcopal Press, New York.

- Piety without Asceticism, the Protestant Kempis. By Bishop Jebb. 12mo.

William Marshall, Providence.

- Nautical Reminiscences, by the Author of "Mariner's Sketches." 12mo.

Richardson, Lord, & Holbrook, Boston.

In Press.

The Economical Atlas, for the Use of Families and Young Persons; contain-
ing Thirty-Four Maps, with Various Tables of Population, &c.; with Engrav-
ings of Costumes, Curiosities, &c.

Lyra Sacra; consisting of Anthems, Motets, Chants, Sentences, &c., origi-
nal and Selected, most of which are short, easy of performance, and appropriate
to the common and various occasions of Public Worship. By Lowell Mason,
Editor of the Handel and Haydn Society Collection of Church Music.

The Introductory Discourse and Lectures delivered before the American
Institute of Instruction in Boston, 1831. With an Essay on the Construction
of School Houses; with a Plan.

In Press.

Bible Illustrations, or a Description of the Manners and Customs of the East,
especially explanatory of the Sacred Scriptures.

Parley's Book of the most Remarkable Curiosities in the World.

Hilliard, Gray, & Co., Boston.

- Pickering's Lexicon. 3d edition.
Poems. By Hannah F. Gould. 18mo.

In Press.

Enfield's Philosophy. 4th edition. 8vo.

Carter & Hendee, Boston.

History of the Cholera Morbus. Translated from the French. By A. S. Doane. 8vo.

Bernard's Recollections of the Stage. 2 vols. 12mo.

Stories from Common Life. 16mo.

In Press.

Rudiments of the Italian Language; or Easy Lessons in Spelling and Reading, with an Abridgment of the Grammar; adapted to the Capacities of Children. By Pietro Bachi, Instructor in Harvard University. 16mo.

Gl' Inni Giovenili della Signora Anna Letizia Barbauld, tradotti in Italiano. Ad uso dei Fanciulli che imparano la Lingua. Nuova edizione, corretta e migliorata da Pietro Bachi, Precettore nell' Università Havardiana. 16mo.

*Cottons & Barnard, Boston.**In Press.*

A Comparative View of the Italian and Spanish Languages; or an Easy Method of Learning Spanish for those who are already acquainted with the Italian. By Pietro Bachi, Instructor in Harvard University. 1 vol. 12mo.

William Hyde & Co., Boston.

The Pious Minstrel. 24mo.

In Press.

The Missionary Gazetteer. By Charles Williams. With Improvements, by the American Editors.

Gray & Bowen, Boston.

Rev. Mr. Greenwood's Sermon at the Ordination of the Rev. Mr. Thompson, at Salem. 8vo.

Life of Hannah Adams. 12mo.

In Press.

Proverbs Dramatiques. 12mo.

*Marsh, Capen, & Lyon, Boston.**In Press.*

Shaw's Architecture. 2d edition. 4to.

Operative Masonry, &c. 8vo.

Flora's Interpreter. By Mrs. Hale. 8vo.

The American Citizen. By B. L. Oliver.

Life of the Rev. J. Murray. 12mo. 5th edition.

Notes on the Parables. By the Rev. H. Ballou. 12mo.

Lectures. By the Rev. H. Ballou.

Essays on the Atonement. By the Rev. H. Ballou.

Hilliard & Brown, Cambridge.

Owen Felltham's Resolves. 16mo. Vol. 4. of Old English Prose Writers.

Friendly Review of Remarkable Extracts and Popular Hypotheses relating to the Sufferings of Christ. By Noah Worcester, D. D.

An Introduction to English Grammar, on an Analytical Plan. By Samuel Webber, A. M., M. D. 12mo.